THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

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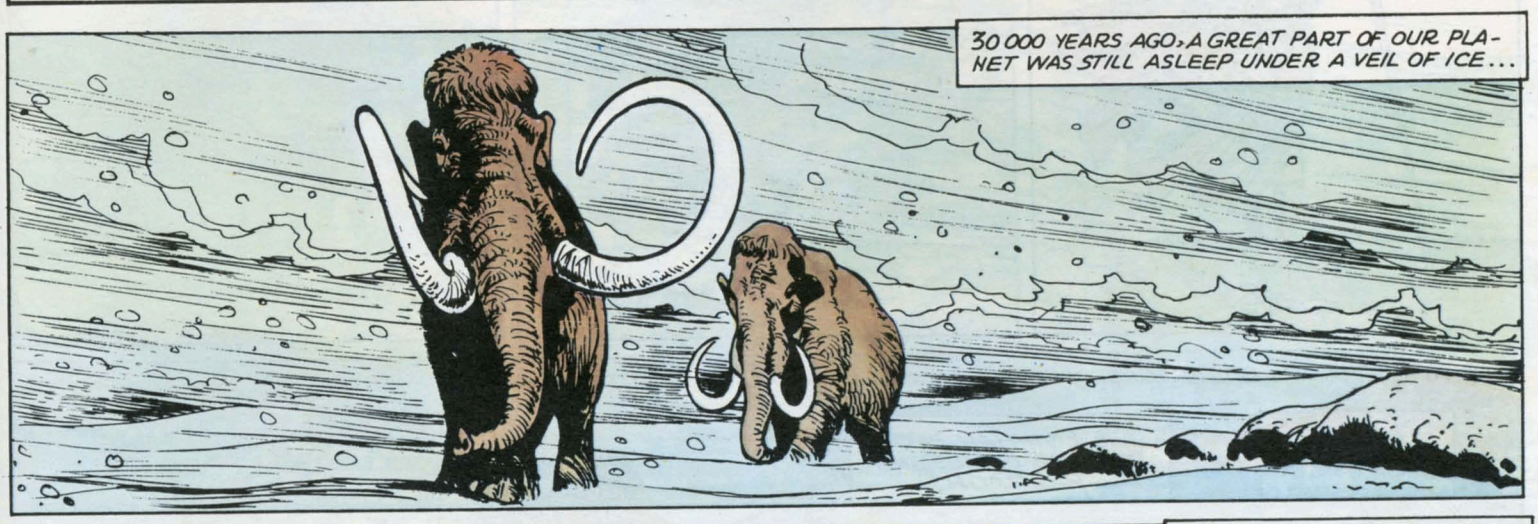
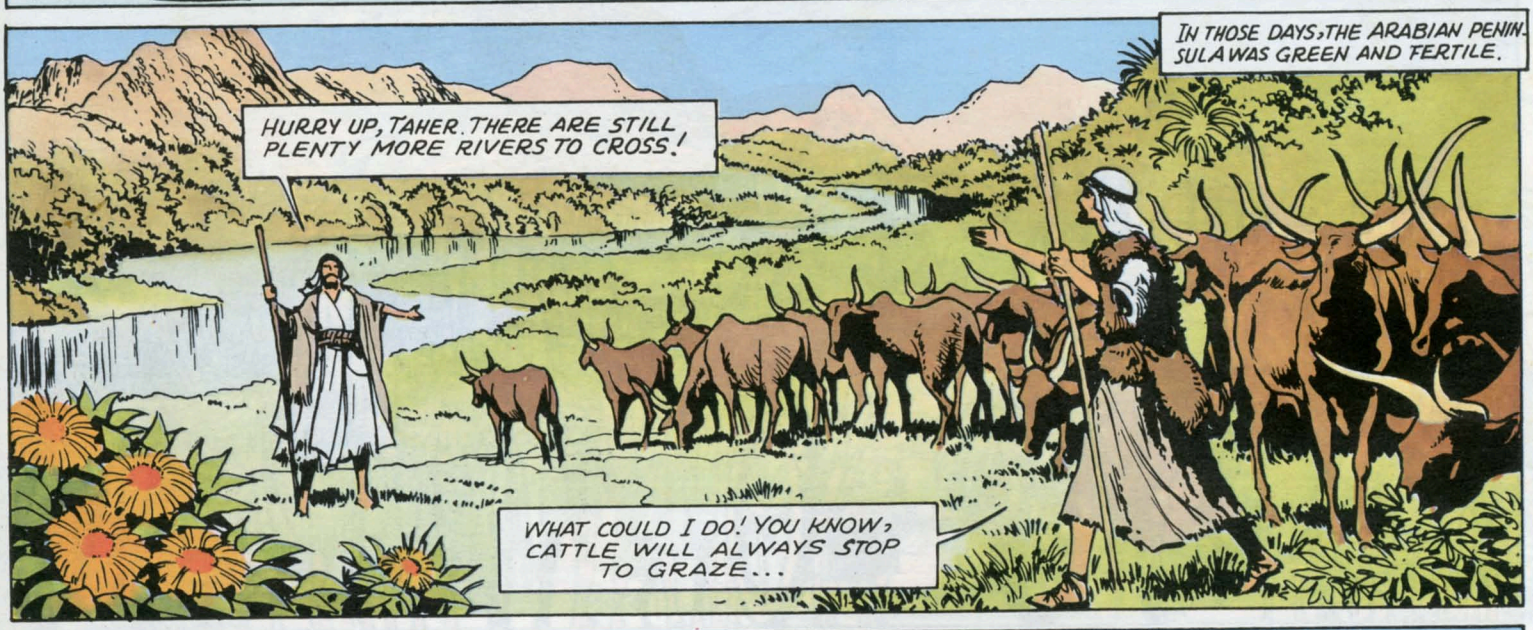
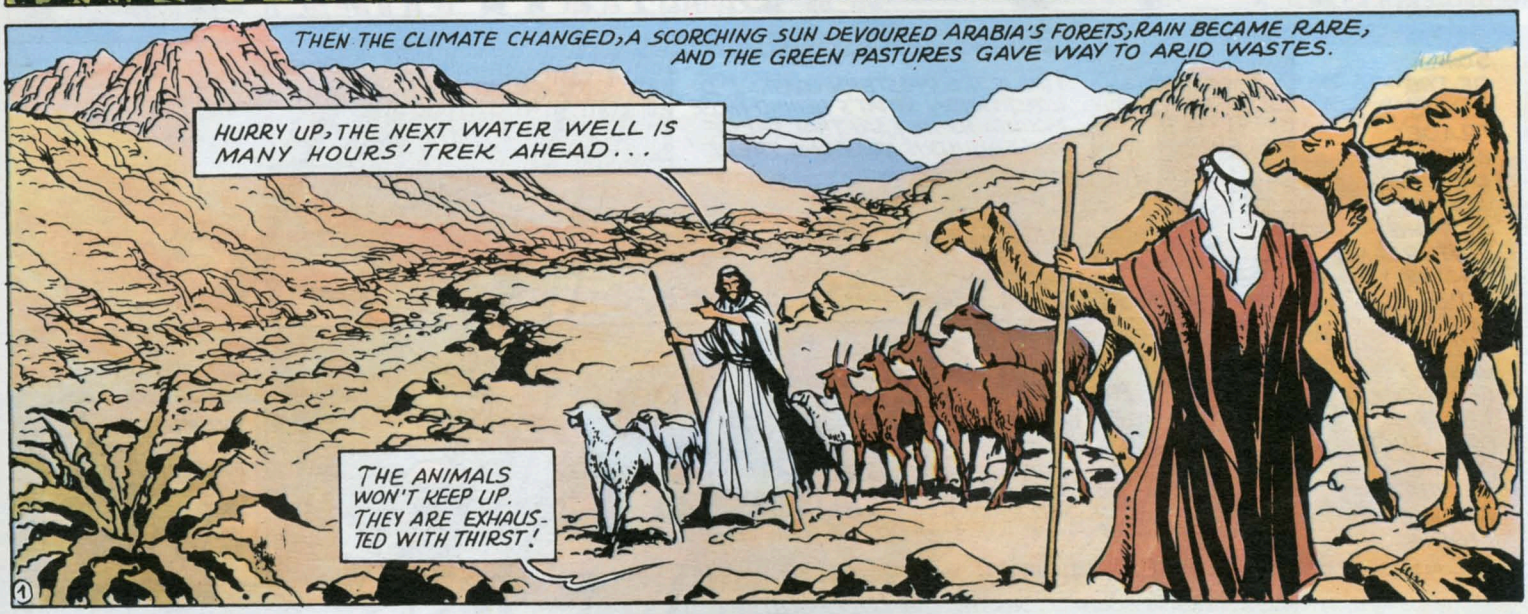
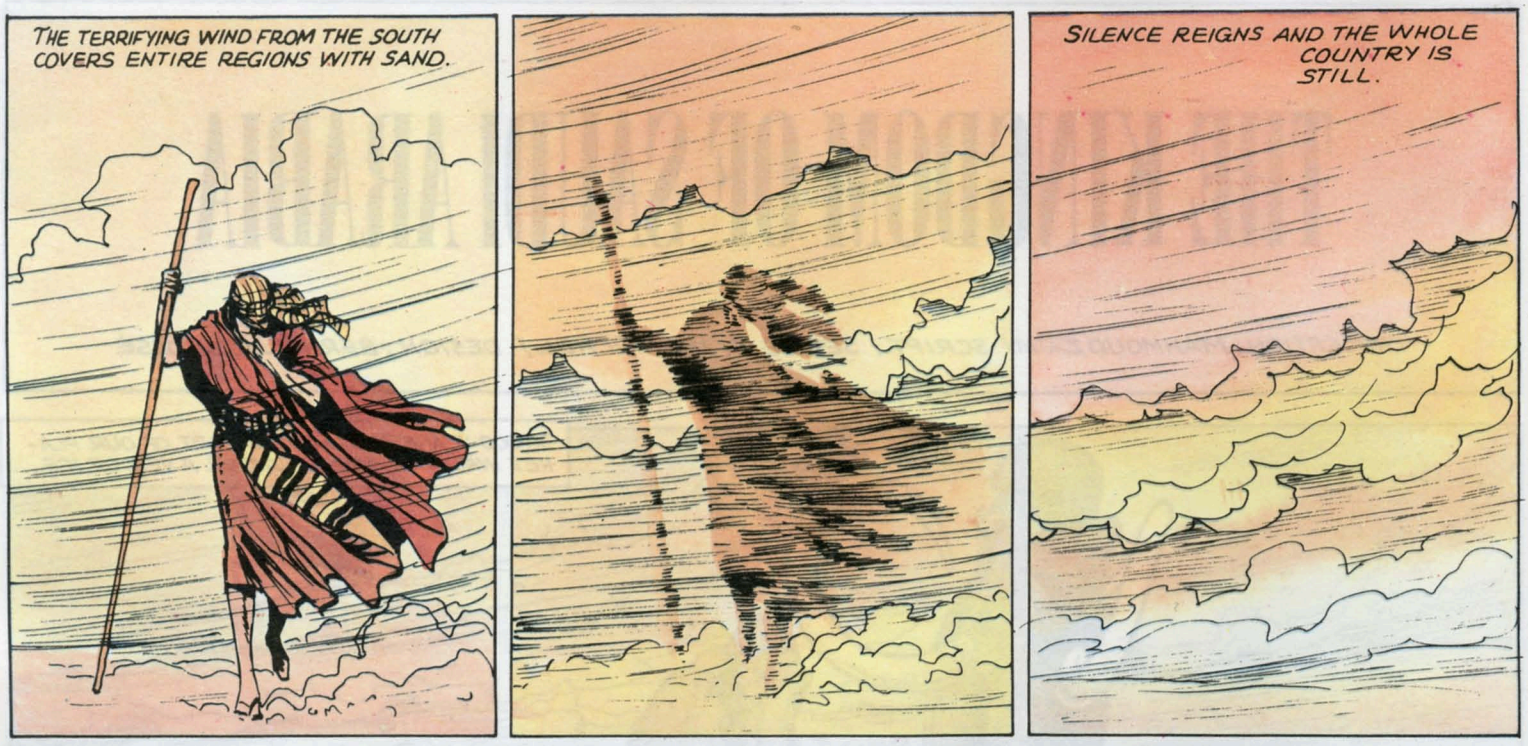
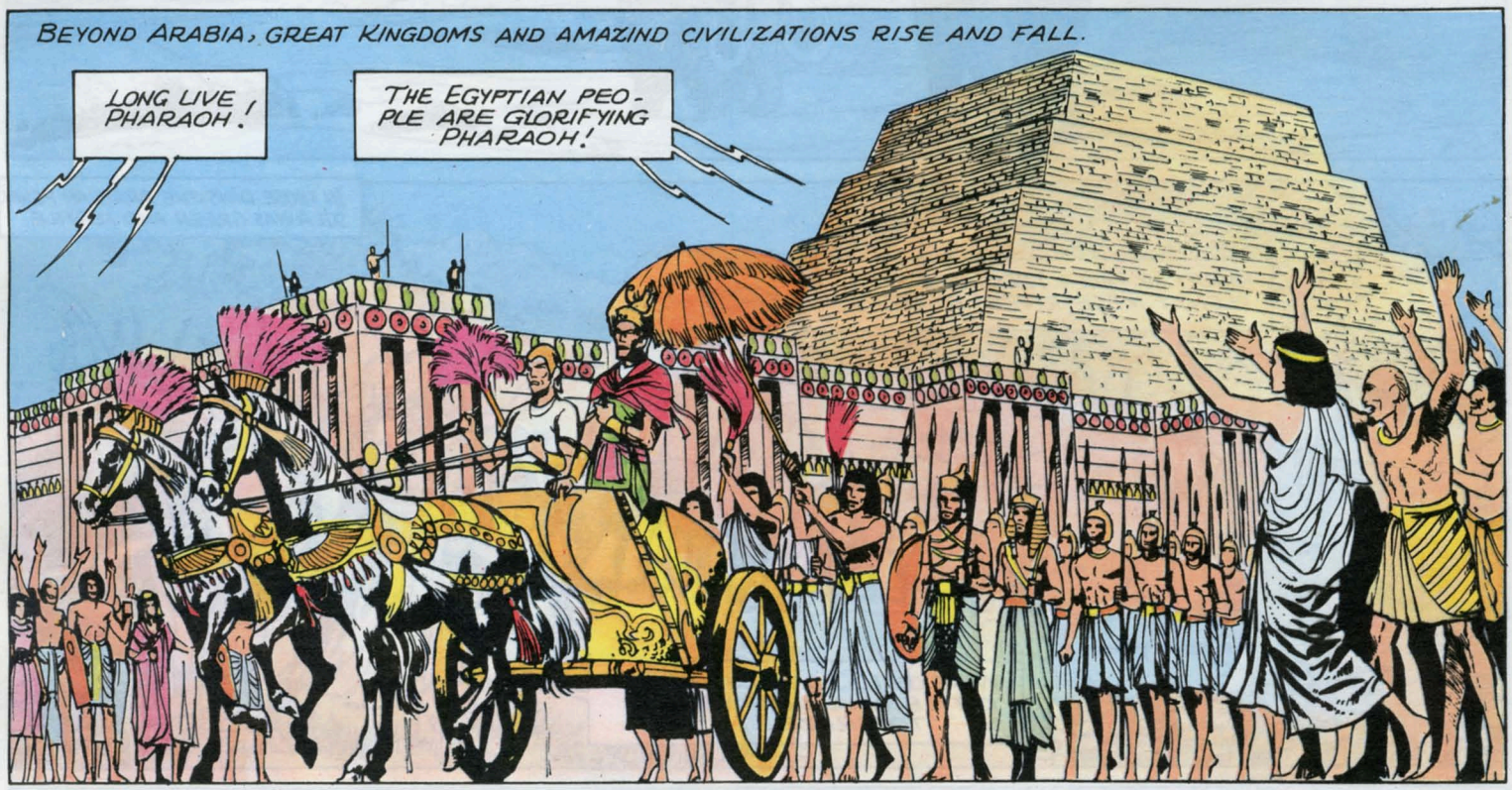
CONCEPTION: MAHMOUD ZAÏM / SCRIPT: SERGE SAINT-MICHEL / DESIGN: BERNARD DUFOSSÉ



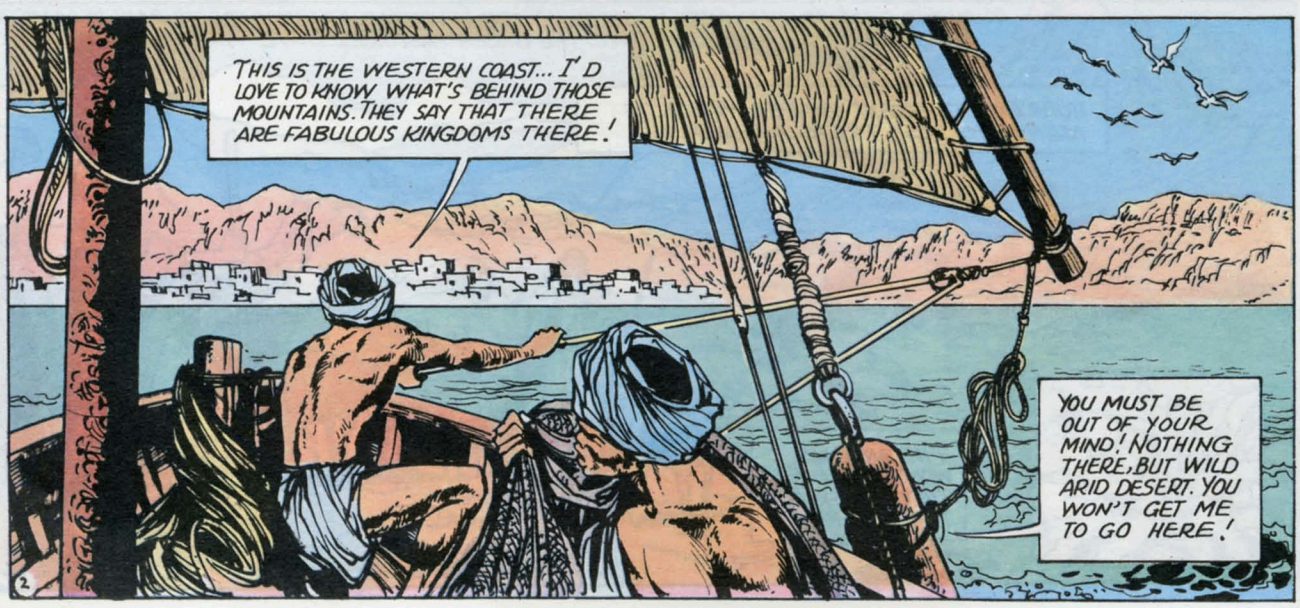


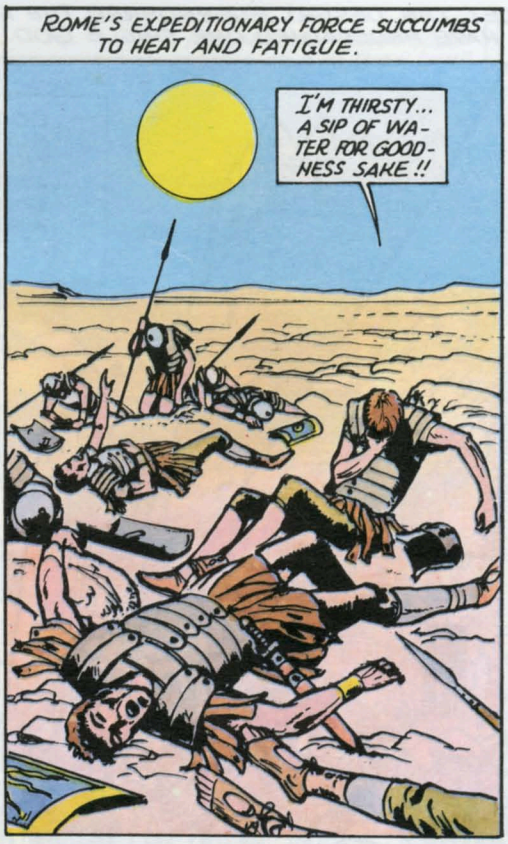




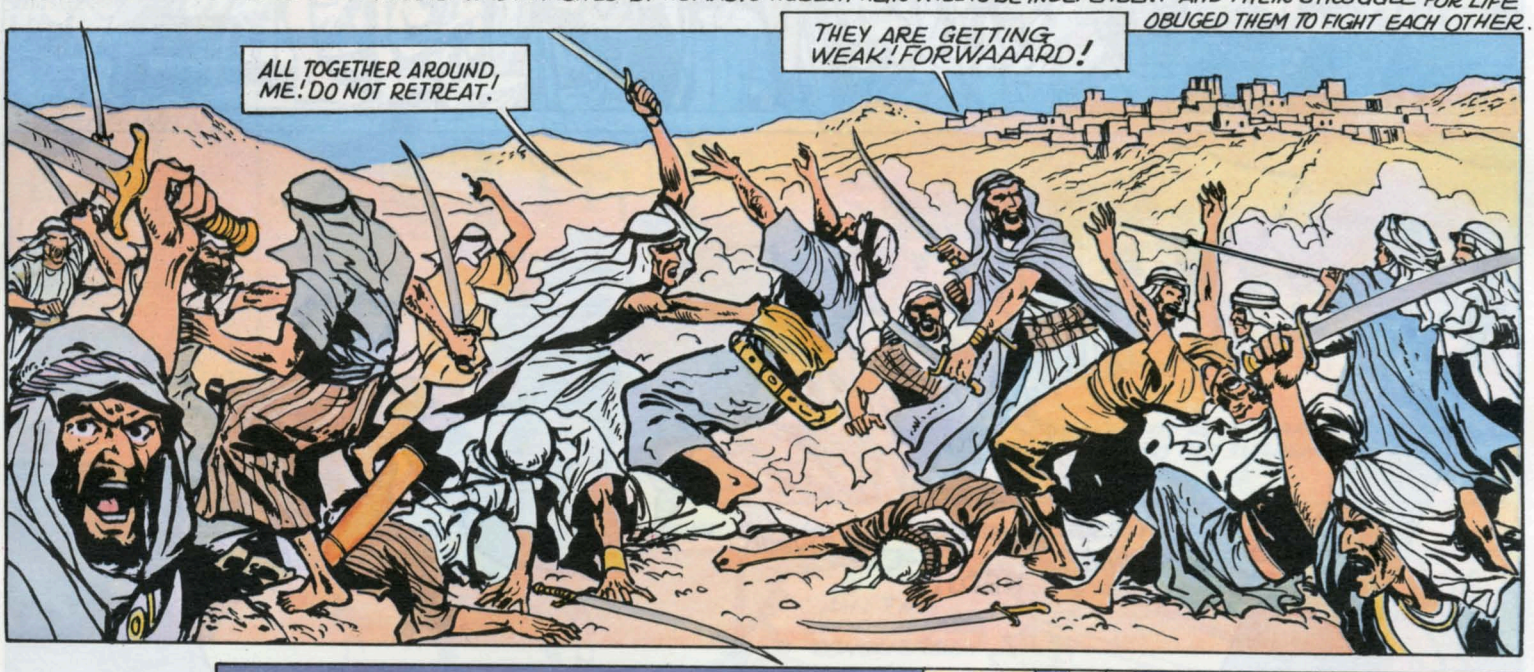


SOME OF THE PORTS TRADE WITH "THE CIVILISED WORLD". BUT THE HINTERLAND KNOWS NONE OF THE NILE VALLEY SPLENDOUR, THE OPULENCE OF THE EUPHRATES AND TIGRIS CITIES.





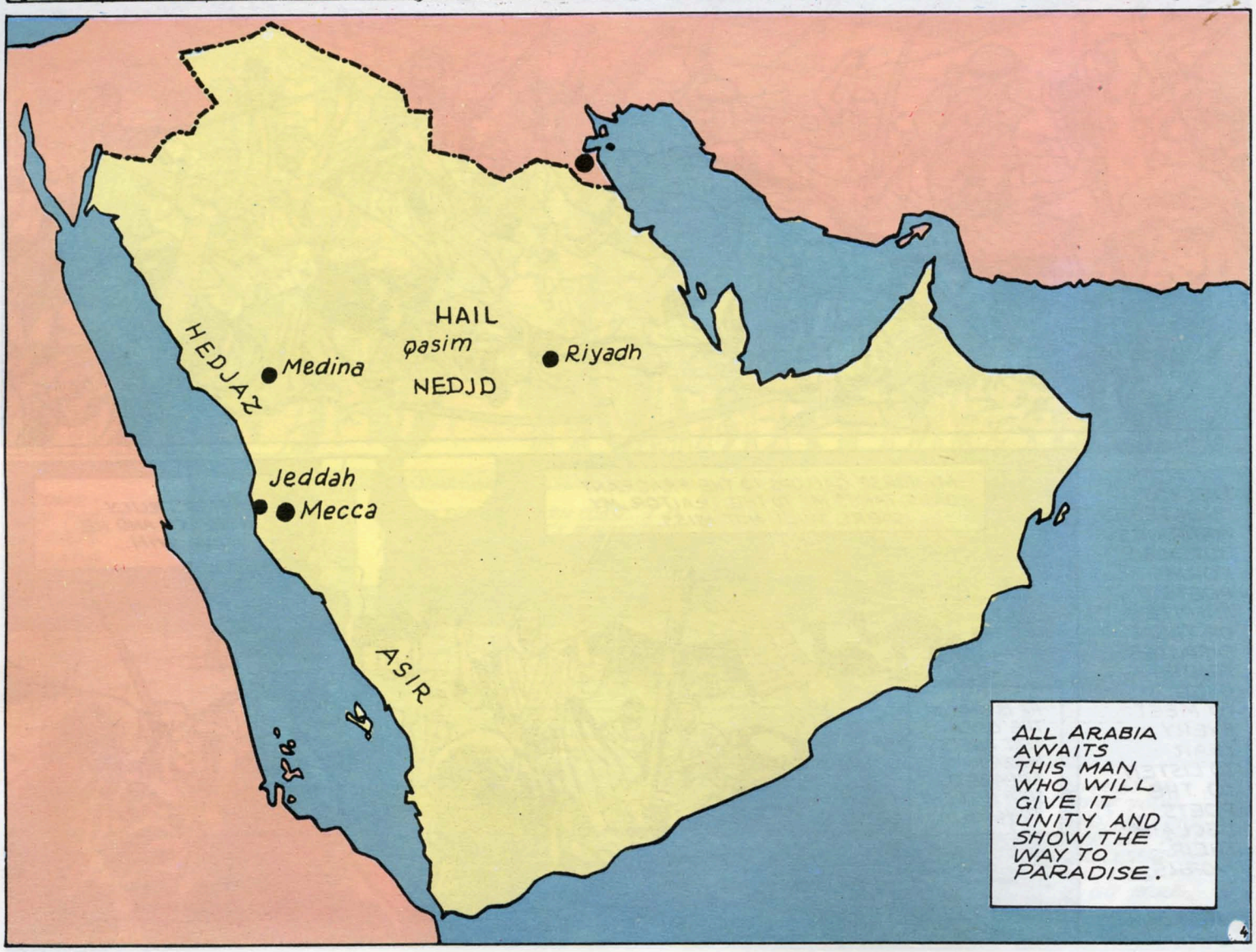
BUT THIS VAST LAND WAS NOT ARID. IT WAS INHABITED BY NOMADIC TRIBES. THEIR WILL TO BE INDEPENDENT AND THEIR STRUGGLE FOR LIFE OBLIGED THEM TO FIGHT EACH OTHER.



DESERT CREATES WARRIORS, BUT ALSO FORMS POETS. INSPITE OF THEIR DISPUTES, TRIBES USED TO MEET EVERY YEAR TO LISTEN TO THE POETS DECLAIM THEIR WORKS.

AFTER THE WARRIOR AND THE POET, THE DESERT ENGENDERED THE FAITHFUL BELIEVERS. THUS THOUSANDS OF PREACHERS HAVE PROCLAIMED ONE SINGLE GOD.

GOD DISAPPROVES OF SUPERSTITION AND VILLAGE CULTS... ONE DAY A MAN WILL COME AND LEAD THE ARABS TO GOD!



ALL ARABIA AWAITS THIS MAN WHO WILL GIVE IT UNITY AND SHOW THE WAY TO PARADISE.

IN THE 7th OF THE CHRISTIAN ERA...

I HAVE NOT SEEN MOHAMMED, SON OF ABDULLAH. IS HE TAKEN SICK?

OF COURSE NOT! HE IS IN THE MOUNTAIN, THEY SAY HE'S MEDITATING INSIDE "GHAR HERAQ".

IN DUE TIME, THE PROPHET, STARTING TO TRANSMIT THE MESSAGE OF ISLAM, IS MET WITH HOSTILITY BY THE COREISHITES AND FINDS HIMSELF FORCED TO LEAVE MECCA FOR EXILE IN YATHREB (HOLY MEDINA).

WE MUST FINISH WITH MOHAMMED. THE NUMBER OF PILGRIMS HAS DECREASED BECAUSE OF HIM. THE TRADESMEN ARE RISING IN REVOLT!

DON'T WORRY! THE COREISHITES HAVE ENTERED INTO AN ALLIANCE WITH SEVERAL TRIBES AND WILL CRUSH HIM AT YATHREB!

HIS ADVERSARIES DO NOT SURRENDER.

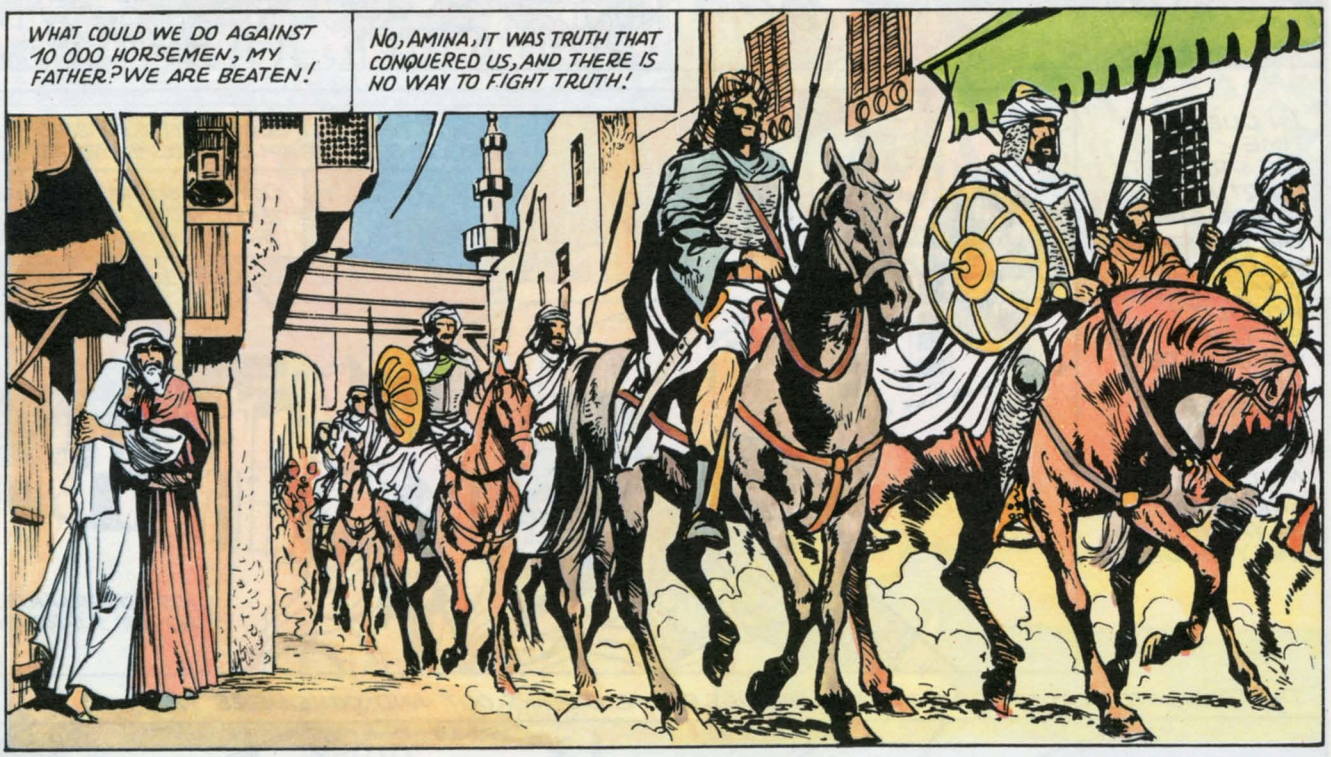
THE COREISHITES LAY SIEGE AGAINST THE PROPHET, BUT HE BREAKS OUT AND CONQUERS THEM.

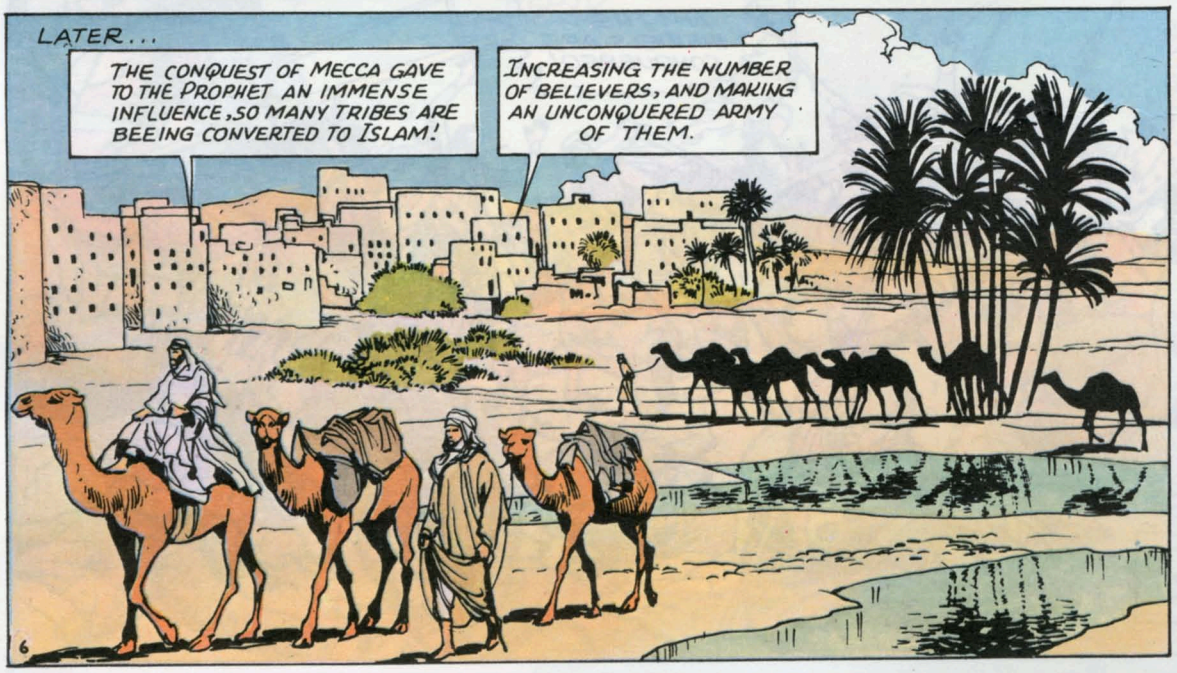
AH! THE INFIDELS ARE CONQUERED!

PARADISE IS OURS. FORWARD TO VICTORY HORSEMEN OF ALLAH!

LIKE A FLASH, THE PROPHET HEADS FOR MECCA FROM HOLY MEDINA ACCOMPANIED BY MASSES OF MUSLEMS FOR PILGRIMAGE. BUT THE INFIDELS OF MECCA WERE THERE TO CONFRONT THE MUSLEMS IT ALL ENDS BY SIGNING AL HUDAYBEYA TRUCE, ACCORDING TO WHICH IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT PILGRIMAGE WOULD TAKE PLACE IN A COMING YEAR.

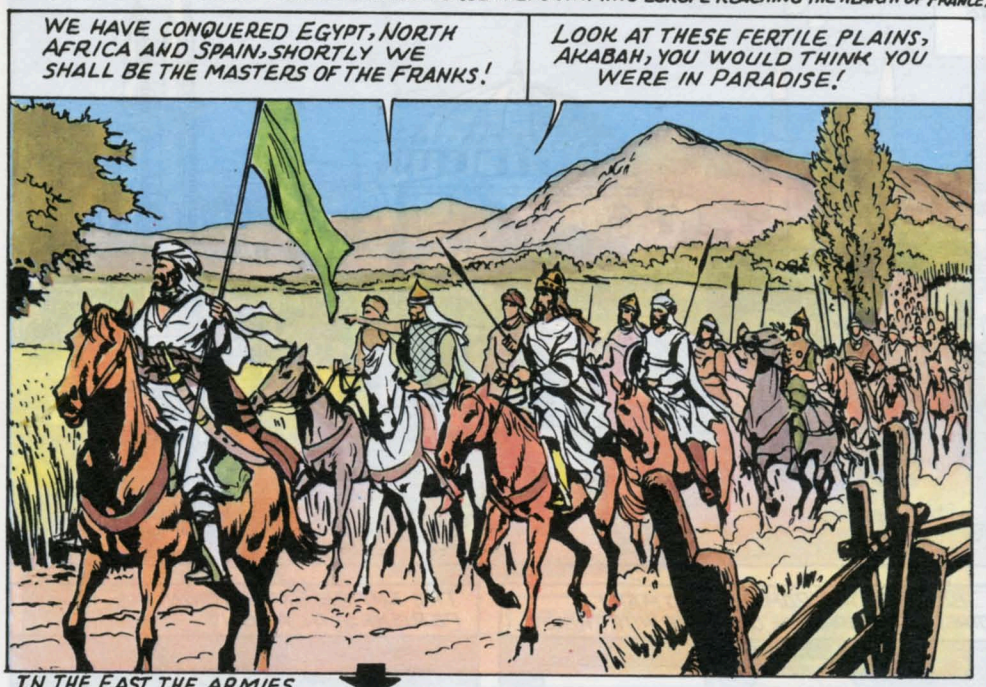
AT ANOTHER LEVEL, THE PROPHET WINS SEVERAL BATTLES AGAINST THE JEWS. HIS RENOWN SPREADS ALL OVER THE WORLD. ALARMED AT THE ISLAM'S SOARING PRESTIGE, THEY BREAK THE TRUCE. THE PROPHET ATTACKS MECCA WHICH SURRENDER WITHOUT A FIGHT.



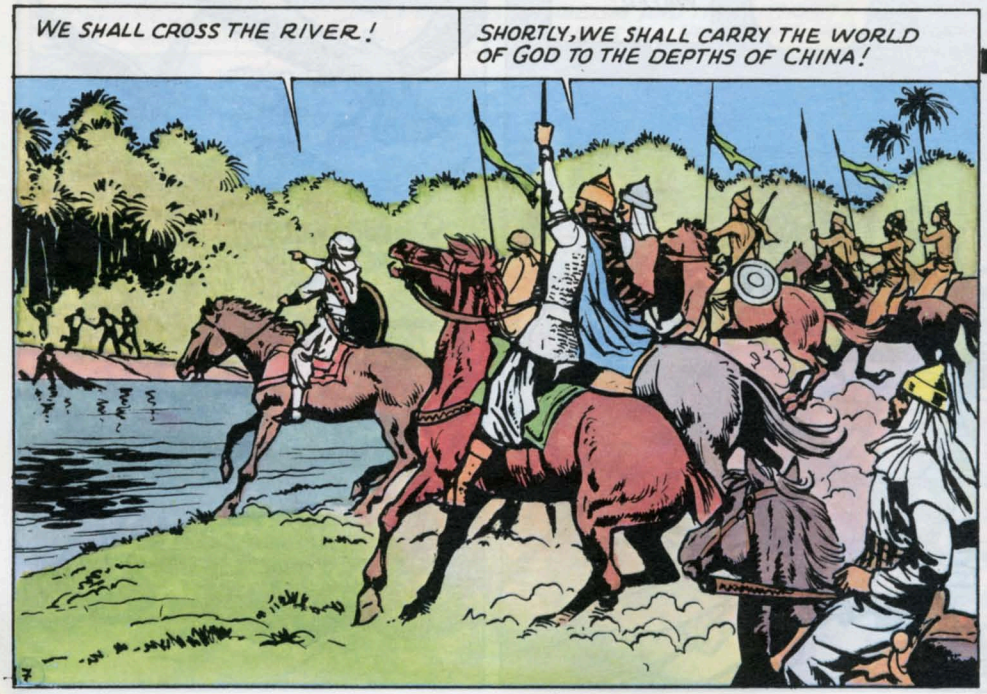


INDEED, THE PROPHET FINALLY EXTENDED HIS SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL AUTHORITY TO THE WHOLE COUNTRY. AS HE DIED IN THE 10th YEAR OF HEGIRA (632), HIS SPIRITUAL SUCCESSORS FOLLOWED HIS WAY.

LIKE A HURRICANE, THE MOSLEM ARMIES FORCE THEIR WAY INTO EUROPE REACHING THE HEARTH OF FRANCE.

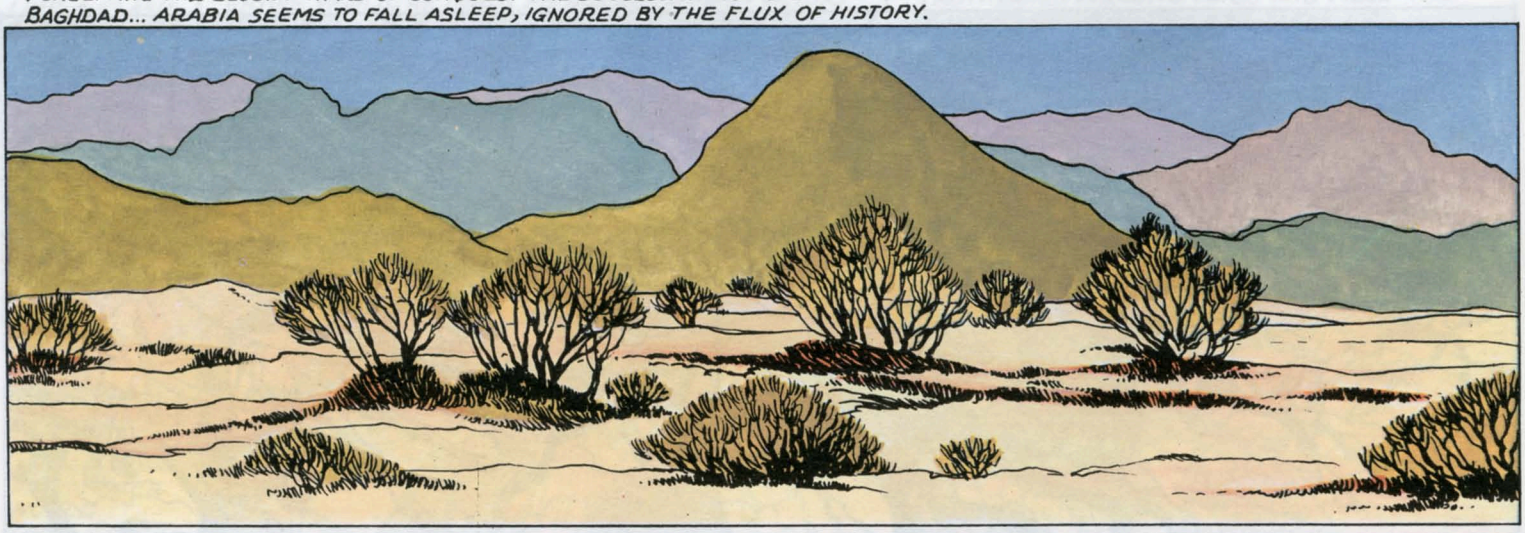


IN THE EAST THE ARMIES REACH THE INDUS.

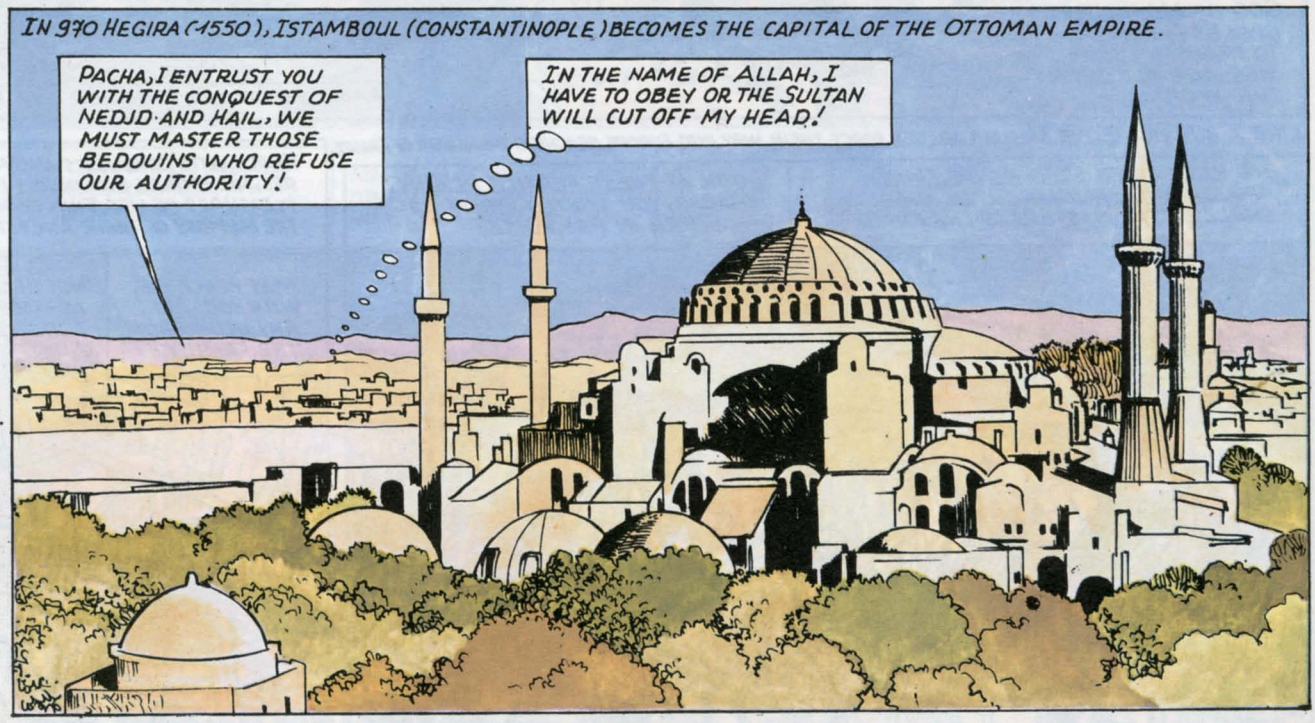


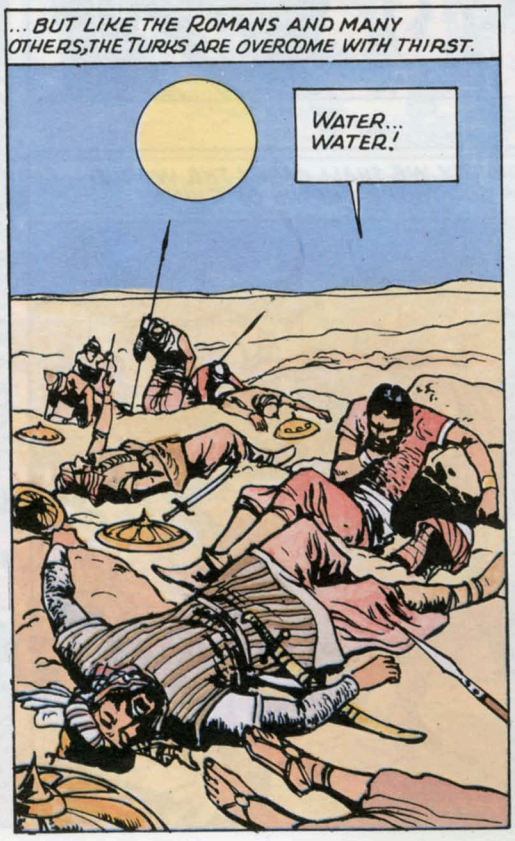
HEADY WITH CONQUESTS AND REFINED PLEASURES, THE EMPIRE BUILDERS GIVE WAY TO THE PLEASURES OF LIFE. THEY FORGET ARABIA, AND THE MEMORY OF THEIR ANCESTORS FADES.

FORGETTING THE BLOODY WARS OF CONQUEST THE SUCCESSION TRANSFERS ITS CAPITAL FROM MEDINA TO DAMASCUS, THEN TO BAGHDAD... ARABIA SEEMS TO FALL ASLEEP, IGNORED BY THE FLUX OF HISTORY.



FROM THE 12th CENTURY, THE ARABIAN EMPIRE BEGINS TO DECLINE. IN THE 15th CENTURY THE OTTOMAN TURKS SETTLE AROUND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.





THUS, THE DESERT TRIBES KEPT THEIR INDEPENDENCE, AND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE 18th CENTURY, IN THE REGION OF NEDJD...

WE ARE THE ONLY MOSLEMS WHO ENJOY REAL FREEDOM, BUT OUR BROTHERS IN EGYPT AND SYRIA ARE SUFFERING FROM THE OPPRESSION OF IMPERIALISM.

...AND THEY HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE WESTERN CIVILIZATION!

ALY SPEAKS TRULY, THE REAL BELIEVERS ARE HERE, IN THE DEPTHS OF THE DESERT!

BY THE WAY, DO YOU KNOW THAT SHEIKH MOHAMMED IBN ABDUL WAHAB HAS ASKED PROTECTION FROM OUR LEADER, IMAM MOHAMMED IBN SAUD? AND THAT OUR LEADER ACCEPTED TO PROTECT HIM WITH HIS SWORD!

SHEIKH MOHAMMED IBN ABDUL WAHAB WAS PREACHING FOR ISLAM, TO DELIVER IT FROM SUPERSTITION. PERSECUTED BY THE ADVERSARIES, HE FLED TO NEDJD... AND THEN...

MORE BEDOUINS, OFF TO SERVE THE REFORMER AND MOHAMMED IBN SAUD!

NOT SURPRISING SINCE MOHAMMED IBN ABDUL WAHAB, THROUGH HIS STRONG BELIEF WINS OVER ALL THOSE WHO LISTEN TO HIM!

NEARLY ALL THE NEDJD TRIBES NOW ACKNOLEDGE ONE LEADER.

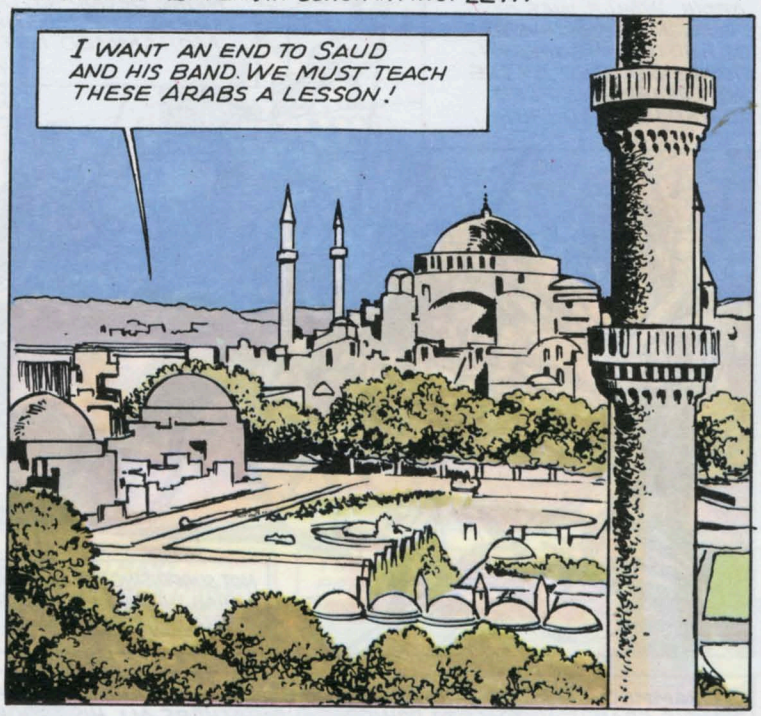
MOHAMMED IBN SAUD STEADILY IMPOSES WAHABISM AND ITS AUTHORITY THROUGHOUT NEDJD. IN 1218 HEGIRA (1803) SAUD'S GRANDSON COMES TO POWER. SAUD GATHERS ALL HIS TROOPS NEAR DARAYA, CAPITAL OF NEDJD.

WITH THE AID OF THE ALL-POWERFUL AND ALL-MERCIFUL GOD, WE SHALL CONQUER ARABIA AND UNIFY IT!

WE SHALL! WE SHALL! LONG LIVE SAUD THE GREAT!

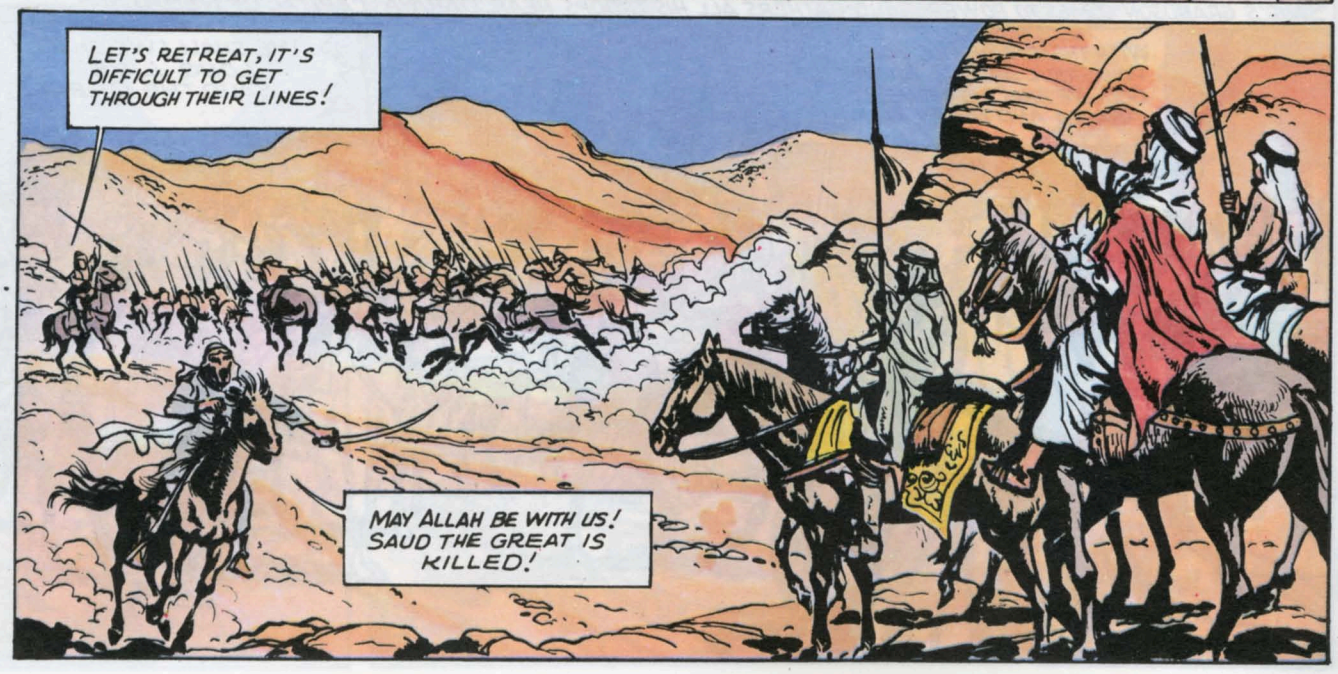
SAUD IS MASTER OF ALL HEDJAZ...

IN 1808, SAUD THE GREAT HAS ALMOST COMPLETED THE CONQUEST OF ARABIA. LATER, IN CONSTANTINOPLE...

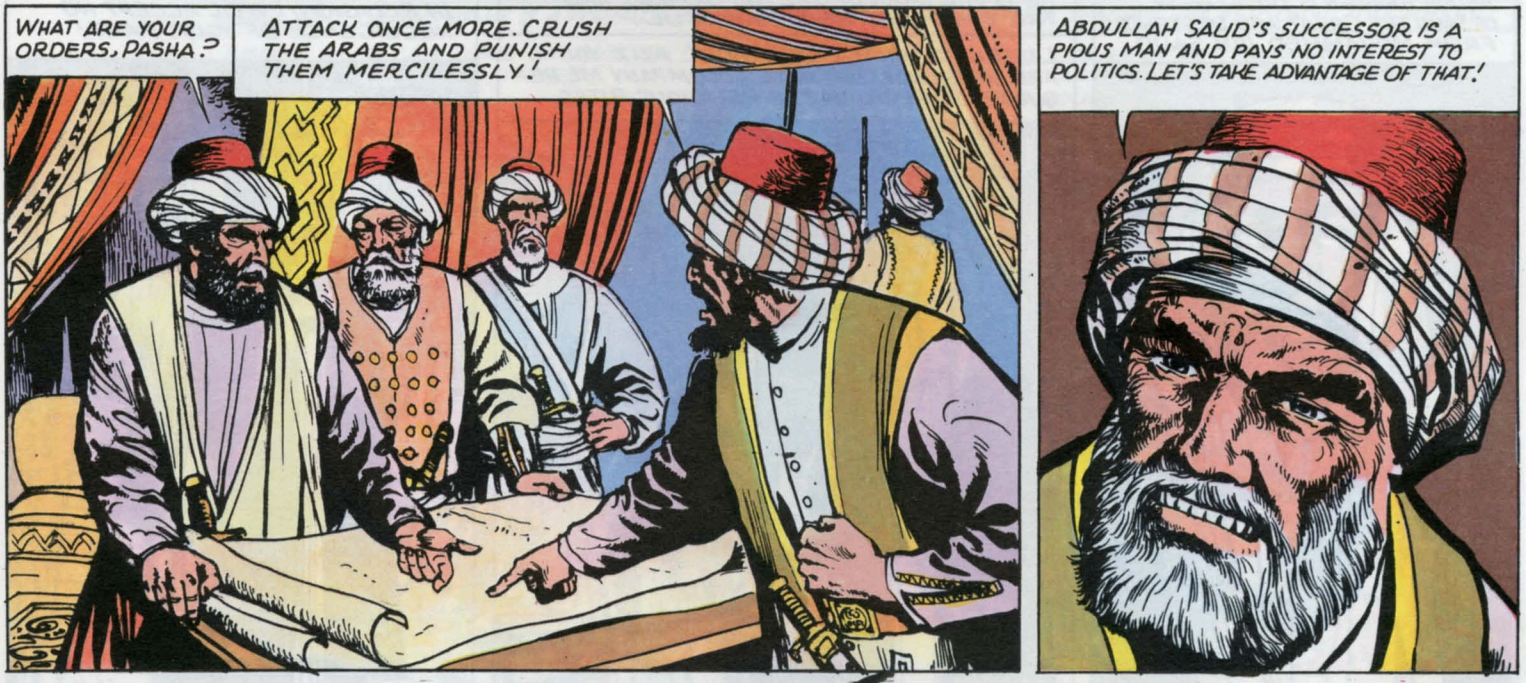


BUT THE OTTOMAN EXPEDITIONS CONTINUE AGAINST SAUD THE GREAT...

IN 1229 HEGIRA (1814), NEAR THE CITY OF AL TAIF...



THE REFORMERS ARE DISTRAUGHT AT THIS DESASTER. THE OTTOMAN ARMY CHIEFS ARE IN ECSTASY.



MURDEROUS FIGHTING ENSUES. ABDULLAH IS TAKEN PRISONER AND IS EXECUTED.

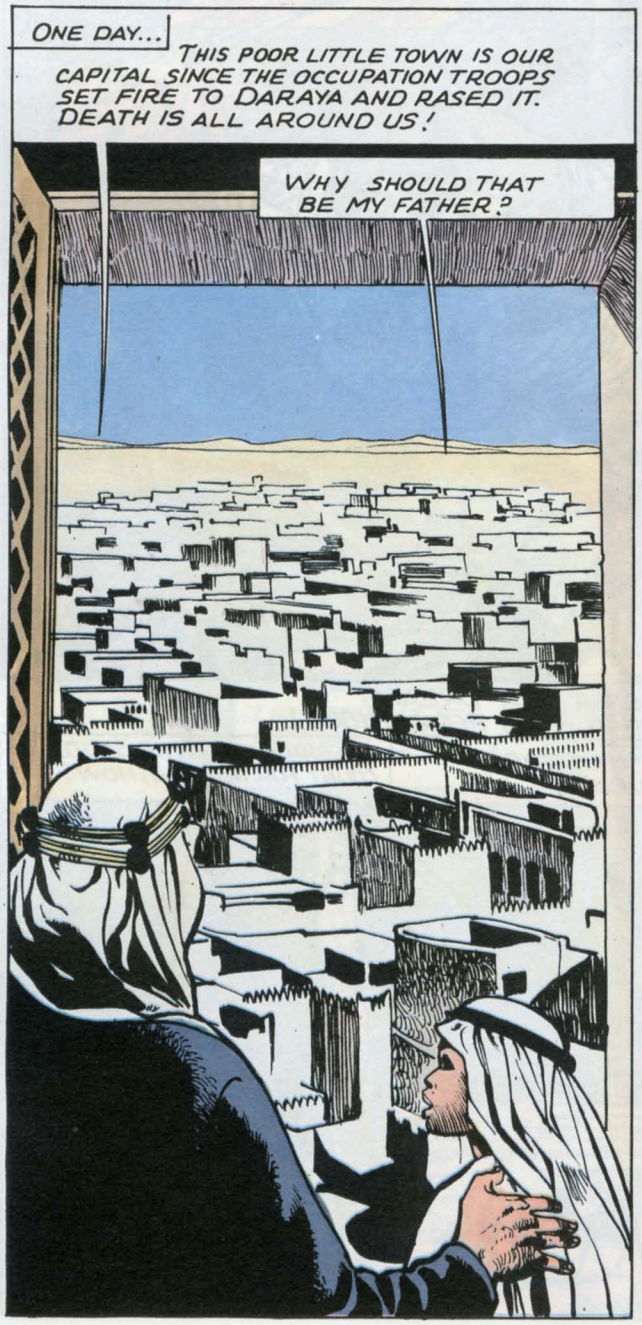
THE OTTOMANS OVERWHELM ALL ARABIA.

IN THIS DIVIDED COUNTRY, STAGGERING UNDER THE BLOW OF A LOST DREAM, ABDUL AZIZ IBN ABDUL RAHMAN AL SAUD IS BORN AT RIYADH IN 1299 HEGIRA (1881).

ABDUR RAHMAN IS THE NEPHEW OF SAUD THE GREAT, AND DESCENDS FROM MOHAMMED IBN SAUD.

HE IS THE IMAN OF THE REFORMERS AND THE CHIEF OF THEIR FAITHFUL.
LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY, ABDUL AZIZ. YOU ARE SEVEN NOW. YOU WILL ACCOMPANY ME REGULARY TO PERFORM THE RELIGIOUS RITES.

IN RELIGION, I WILL ACCEPT NO NEGLIGENCE OF YOUR PART!


ONE DAY...
THIS POOR LITTLE TOWN IS OUR CAPITAL SINCE THE OCCUPATION TROOPS SET FIRE TO DARAYA AND RASED IT. DEATH IS ALL AROUND US!
WHY SHOULD THAT BE MY FATHER?

RIVALRY HAS SPLIT OUR FAMILY, AND OUR OLD ENEMY MOHAMMED IBN RASHID DREAMS OF EXTERMINATING US.
BUT WHAT HAVE WE DONE AGAINST HIM?

THE SHAMMAR BEDOUINS HAVE ALWAYS HATED US. THE TURKS ENCOURAGE THEM.

IBN RASHID HAS UNITED THE SHAMMARS. HE WANTS TO TAKE OVER THE NEDJD REGION.
THE CITY OF HAIL, NORTH WEST OF RIYADH.

THE SHAMMARS LAY SIEGE TO RIYADH IN 1308 HEGIRA (1890), SETTING UP A MILITARY PROTECTION.

ABDUL AZIZ GROWS UP, HE IS A FORMIDABLE WRESTLER.

ABDUL AZIZ CAN TAKE ON ANYONE! HE WINS EVERY TIMES!

WELL DONE, ABDUL!

HIS FATHER TEACHES HIM PERSONAL TOUGHNESS.

MY SON, LEARN TO BE CONTENT WITH ONE GULP OF WATER, A HANDFUL OF DATES, A FEW HOURS' SLEEP EACH DAY.

ONE DAY, THEY PAUSED AFTER A LONG GALLOP IN THE ICY HIGHT PLATEAU LAND...

THIS IS THE SWORD OF SAUD THE GREAT AND ABDUL WAHAB. WITH THIS AND THE SPIRIT OF THE ALL-POWERFUL YOU WILL UNITE ARABIA. BUT HAVE PATIENCE, MY SON!

AFTER THE MONTH OF RAMADAN, OUR ADVERSARIES WILL SEND MEN TO ASSASSINATE US...

...BUT WE SHALL STRIKE FIRST!

WHEN RAMADAN WAS OVER...

THE ENEMIES ARE THERE; NEVER FEAR, MY ABDUL AZIZ; I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR THEM!

THE KILLERS, LED BY A CERTAIN SALIM FINISH DRINKING THEIR COFFEE.

ABDUL RAHMAN'S PEOPLE THROW THEMSELVES ON THE ENEMY.

IBN RASHID LEARNS THE FAILURE OF HIS OPERATION.

IBN RASHID'S PEOPLE LAY SIEGE TO RIYADH. HUNGRY AND THIRSTY, ITS PEOPLE SURRENDER.

THE IMAM HAD GOT THROUGH THE ENEMY LINES DURING THE NIGHT. AFTER A TOUGH PERIOD IN THE DESERT, HE ACCEPTED HOSPITALITY FROM THE EMIR OF KUWAIT IN 1313 HEGIRA (1895).

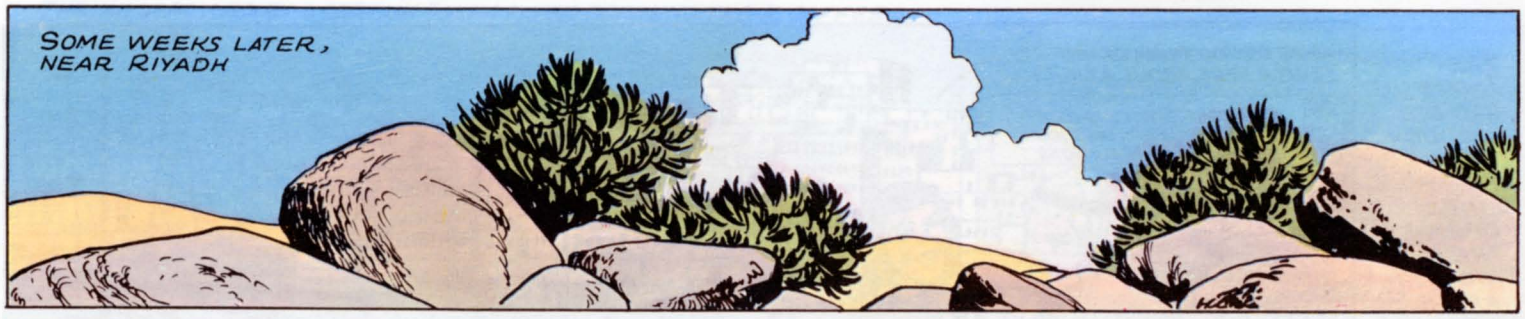
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE PEOPLE HERE, ABDUL AZIZ?

MY SINCERE ADVICE IS-COOPERATION, SOLIDARITY, AND STICKING TO CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS.

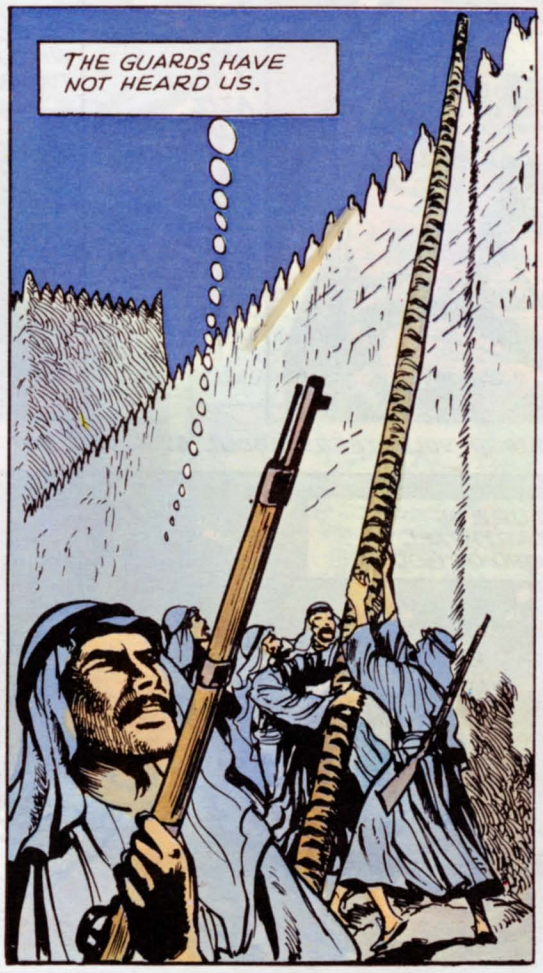
HA HA! YOU ARE A REAL FANATIC!

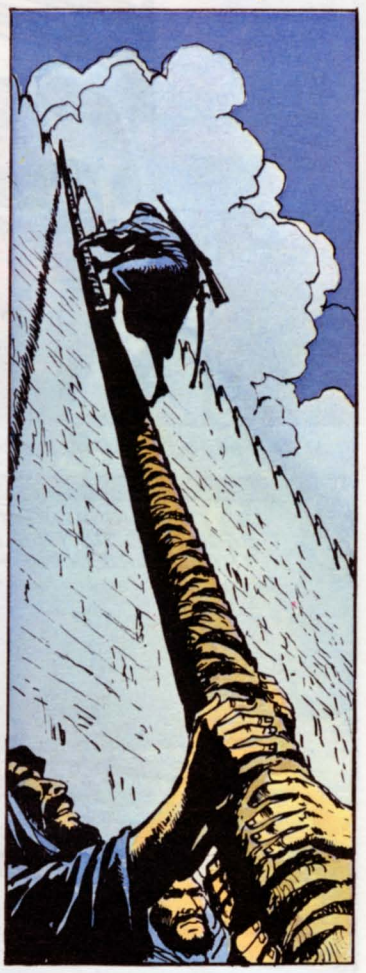
THE YEARS PASS. ABDUL AZIZ STUDIES, MATURES, MAKES PLANS... AND ON HIS 20th BIRTHDAY...

AT THE HEAD OF A SMALL GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS, ABDUL AZIZ SETS OUT ACROSS THE DESERT...



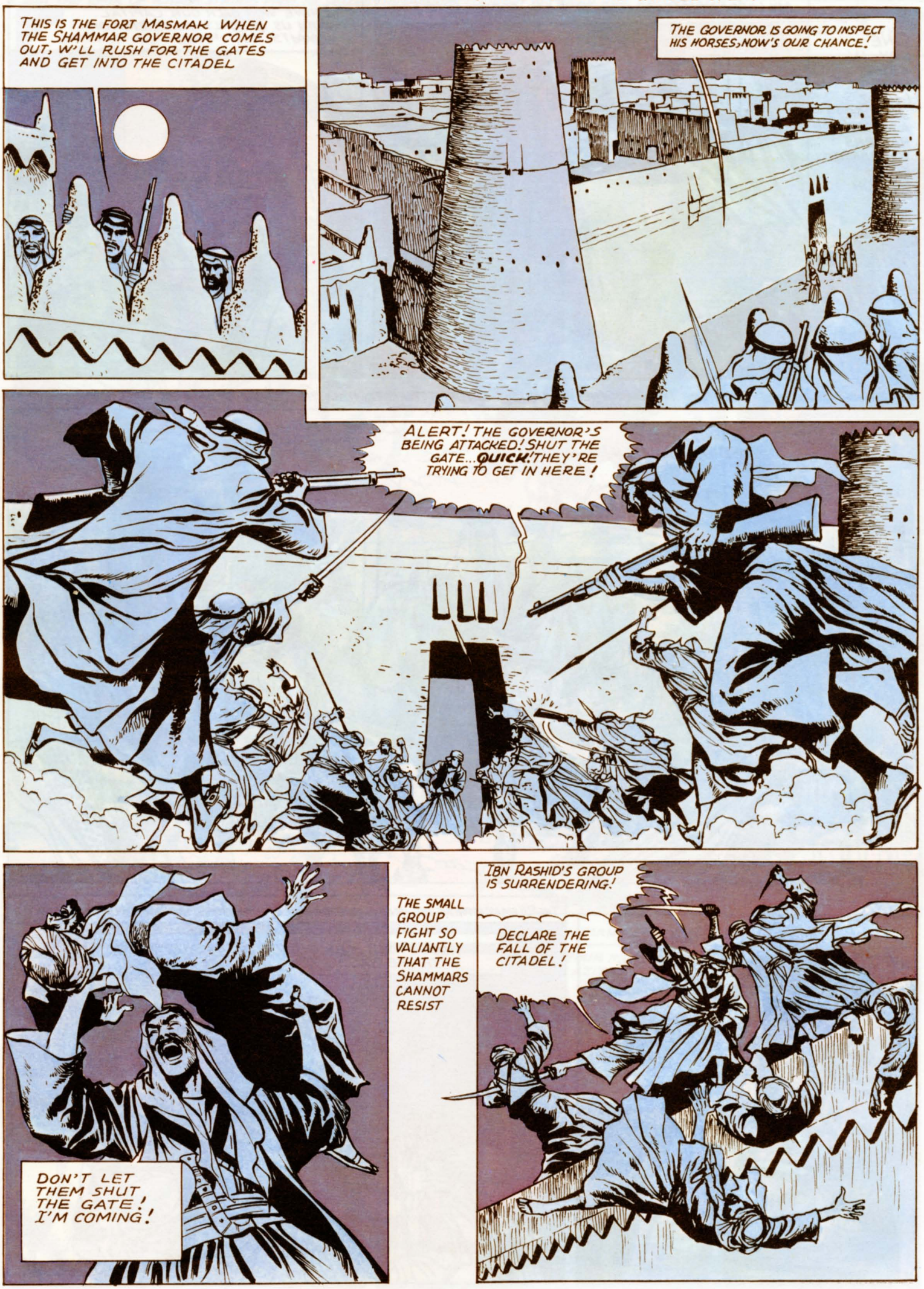
AND AT NIGHTFALL



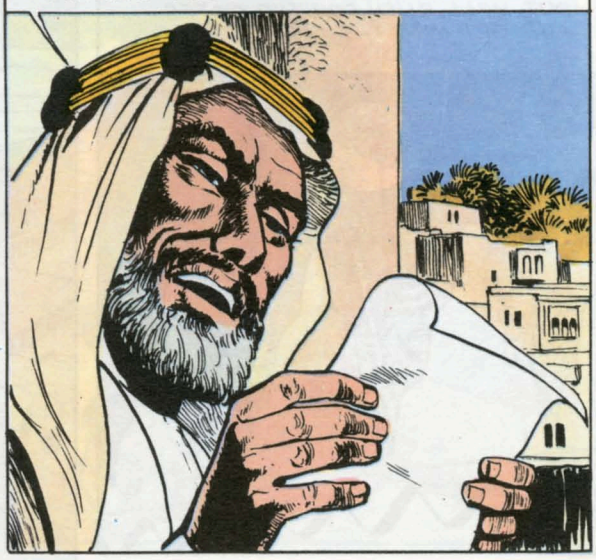


THE SMALL GROUP IS INSIDE THE CITADEL.

AS THE SUN RISES, THE GATES OF THE CITADEL OPEN.



ONE DAY, IN 1320 HEGIRA (1902 - JANUARY) A MESSENGER HASTENS TO KUWAIT FROM RIYADH.



AFTER 11 YEARS OF EXILE THE IMAM OF THE WAHABITES RETURNS TO HIS CAPITAL. THE CROWD ROARS ITS WELCOME.

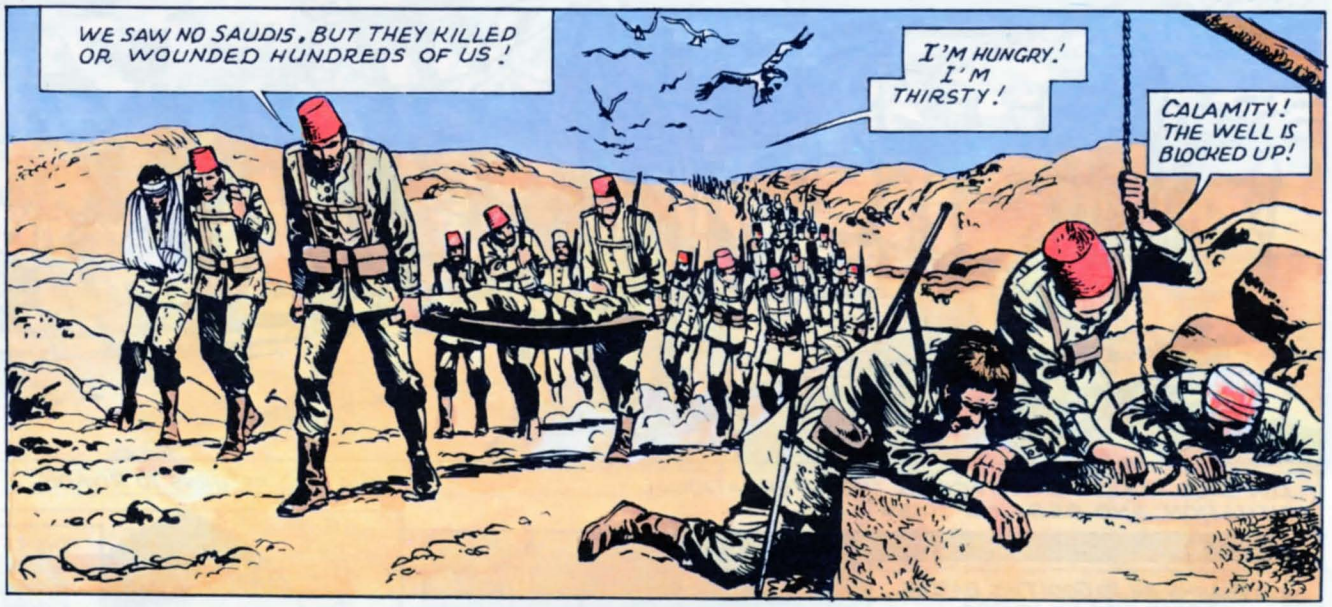
LONG LIVE ABDUR RAHMAN!

LONG LIVE OUR IMAM!

THE "ULEMAS" APPROVE THE IMAM'S CHOICE. BUT IN HAIL, MOHAMMED IBN RASHID PLOTS VENGEANCE.

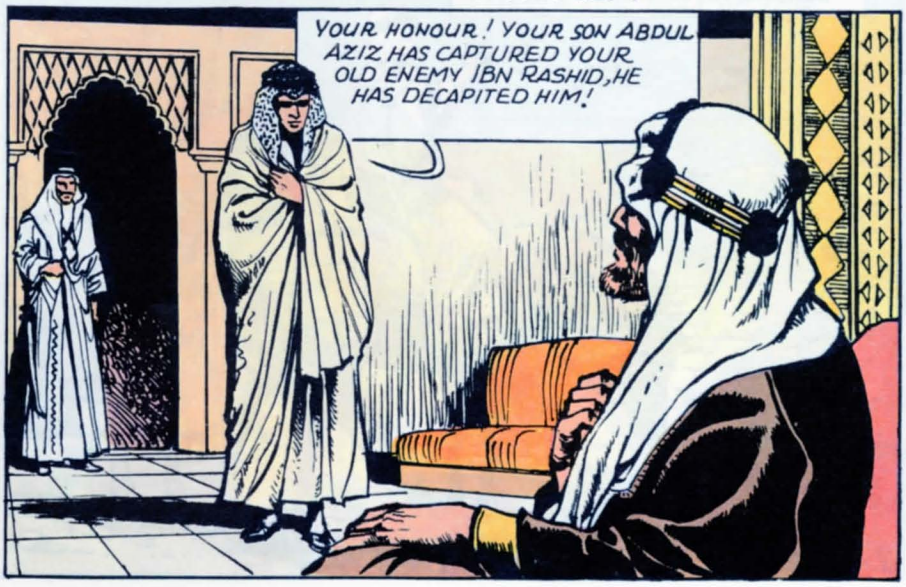
BUT THE EMIR OF RIYADH STRIKES FIRST. HE SEIZES THE QUASIM COUNTRY BETWEEN HAIL AND RIYADH.

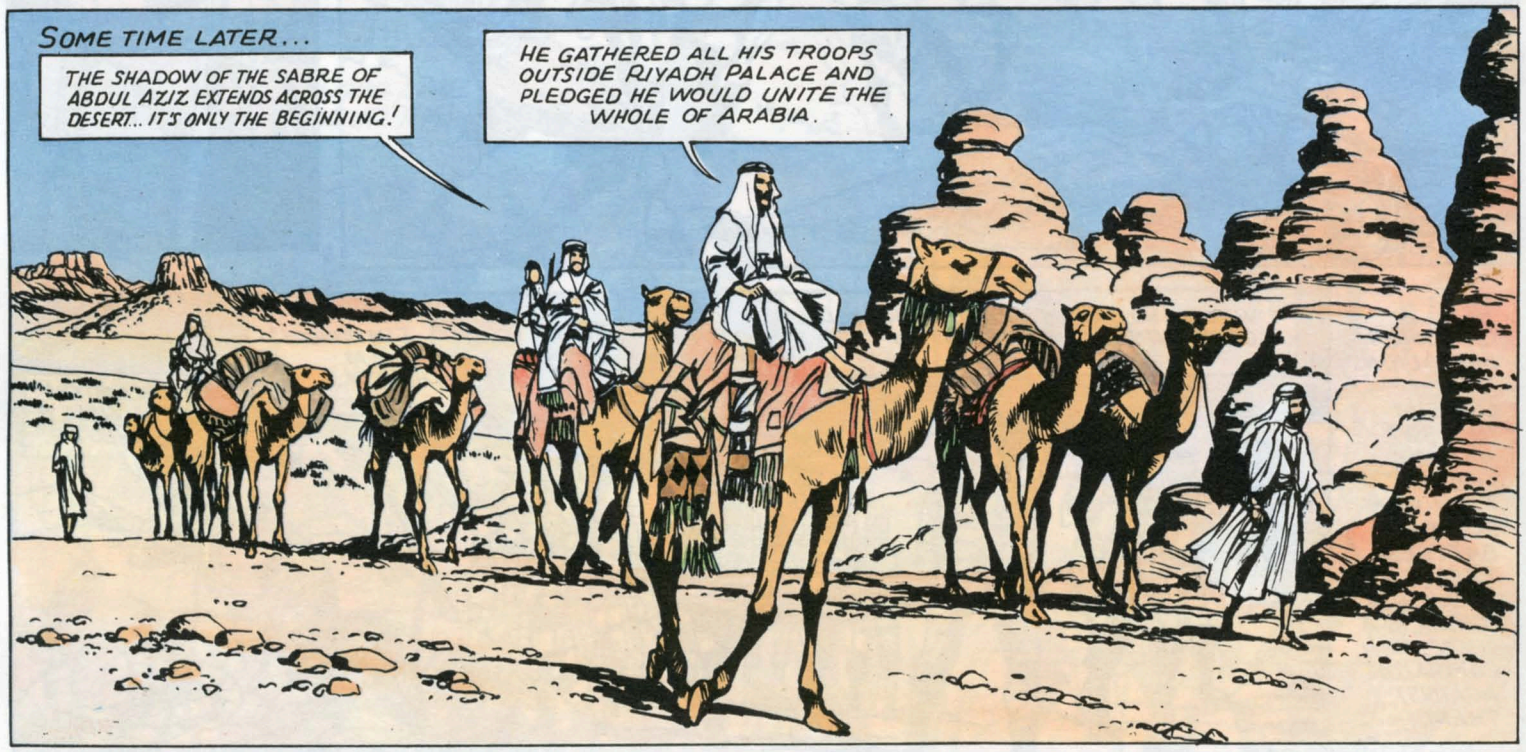
OTTOMAN BATTALIONS REACH QUASIM IN 1322 HEGIRA (1904). THEY WIN SOME BATTLES. THEN, ABDUL AZIZ CONDUCTS A SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THEM.



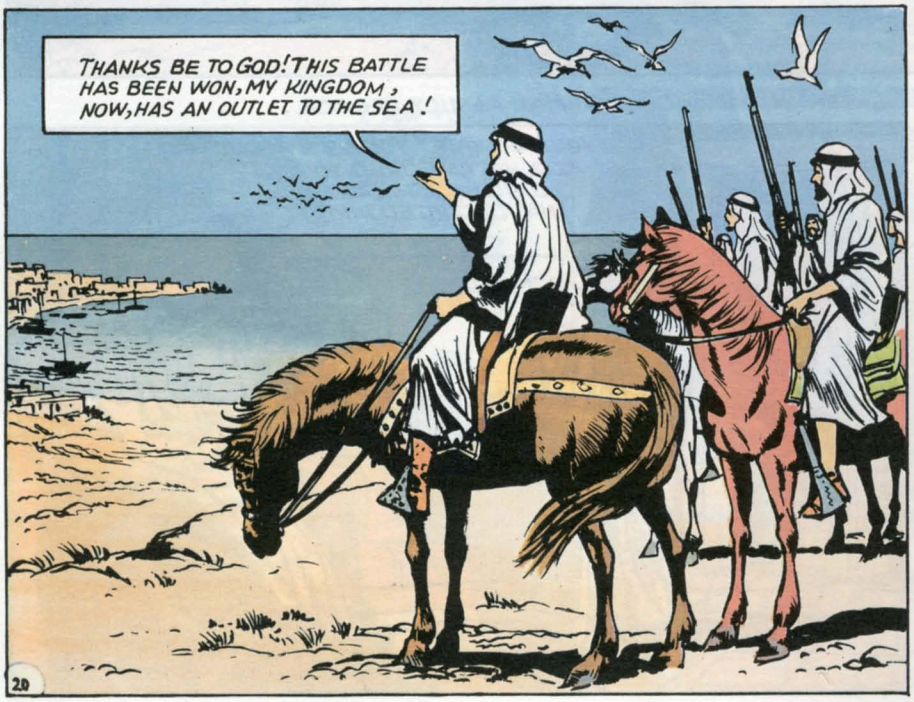
A YEAR AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL, THE OTTOMAN TROOPS LEAVE QUASIM

LATER IN THE ABDUR RAHMAN FAMILY PALACE. .



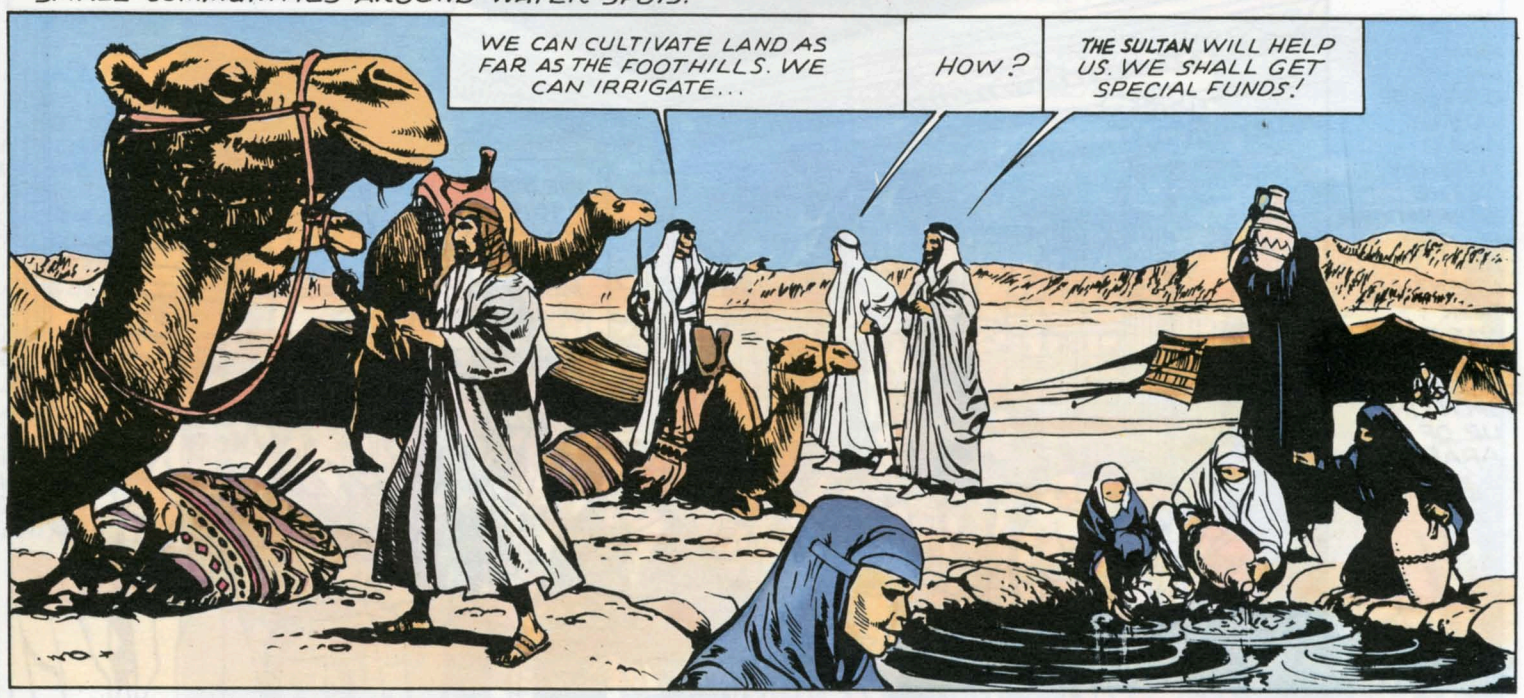


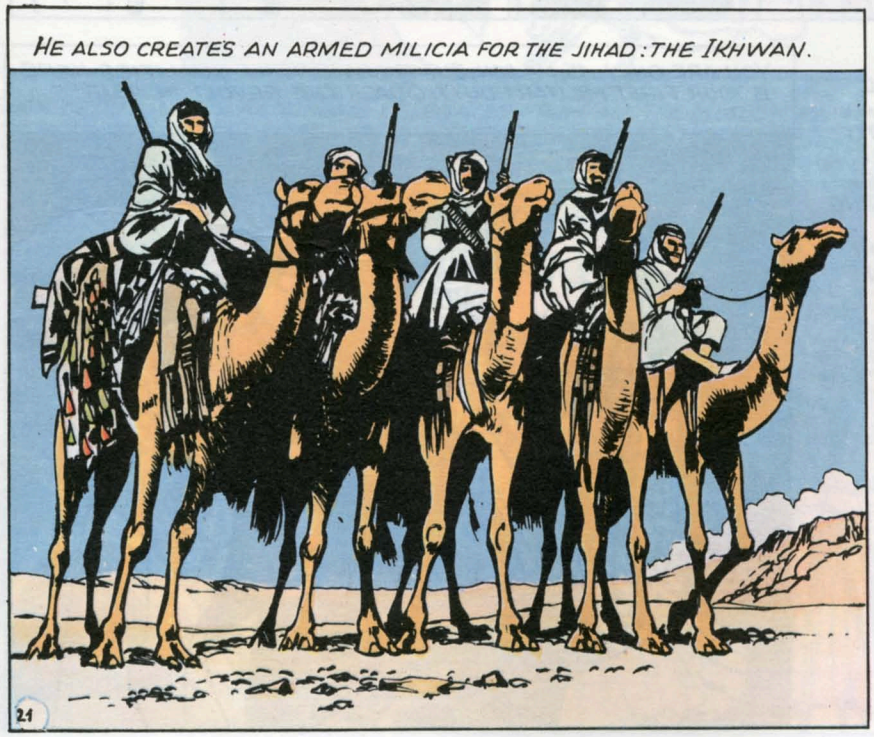
IBN SAUD TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND REGAINS HASA.



THE KING RETURNS TO RIYADH.

THE SULTAN OF NEDJD MAKES A BOLD DECISION TO STOP THE NOMADS ROAMING, TO SET UP SMALL COMMUNITIES AROUND WATER SPOTS.





SHERIF HUSSEIN, FROM HEJAZ WAS THE OTTOMAN'S MAN

TODAY HE COOPERATES WITH OTHERS. HIS ALLIANCE WITH THE BRITISH PREVENTS US FROM INTERVENING IN HEDJAZ!

AFTER THE WAR, THE FALLEN OTTOMAN EMPIRE IS DISMANTLED. ENGLAND TAKES OVER.

THE BRITISH WANT TO SHARE OUT ARABIA. THEY WANT MY ACCEPTANCE. YOU'LL GO TO ANNOUNCE MY REFUSAL!

AT THE AGE OF ONLY 13, FAISAL WAS ALREADY ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. HIS ESSENTIAL TASK WAS TO REFUSE THE SPLITTING UP OF ARABIA.

IN LONDON...

THE BRITISH ARE CREST-FALLEN. I DID NOT AGREE TO THE PARTITION OF ARABIA!

WE'LL GET BACK THE HOLY CITIES RIGHT UNDER THE NOSES OF THE BRITISH!

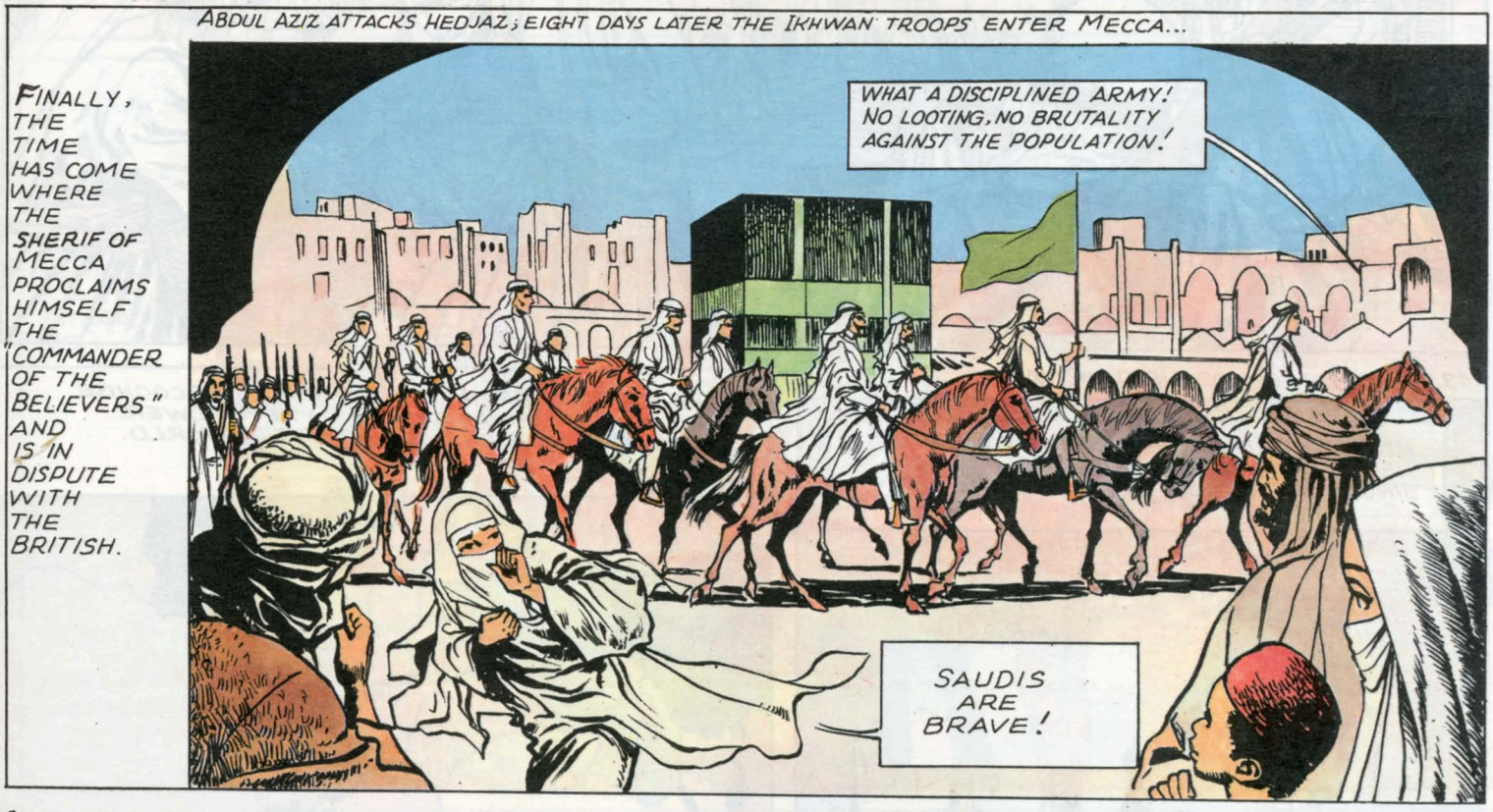
FAISAL THEN GOES TO FRANCE BEFORE RETURNING TO RIYADH. AND IN 1921...

YOU ARE ONLY 15, MY SON, BUT YOU HAVE NOBLE QUALITIES. HERE IS YOUR FIRST MILITARY DUTY: QUASH THE REVOLT IN ASIR!

THE PROVINCE OF ASIR LIES IN SOUTHERN HEJAZ.

AFTER A SECOND SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITION IN THE PROVINCE...

ABDUL AZIZ ATTACKS HEDJAZ; EIGHT DAYS LATER THE IKHWAN TROOPS ENTER MECCA...



SOON AFTER, ABDUL AZIZ HOSTS DELEGATES FROM ALL THE MOSLEM NATIONS.

AFTER THE FALL OF JEDDAH, MEDINA AND YENBO...

THE YOUNG VICEROY, NOW 20, RESIDES IN MECCA. HE CLEANS UP THE CITY, ORGANISES THE PILGRIMAGES PROPERLY, ENDS TAXES ON PILGRIMS...

FAISAL AND HIS FATHER ARE NOT JOKING! NO SMOKING, NO MISBEHAVING AROUND THE SANCTUARY!

WAHABITES STANDARDS APPLY TO ALL RELIGIOUS EVENTS NOW!

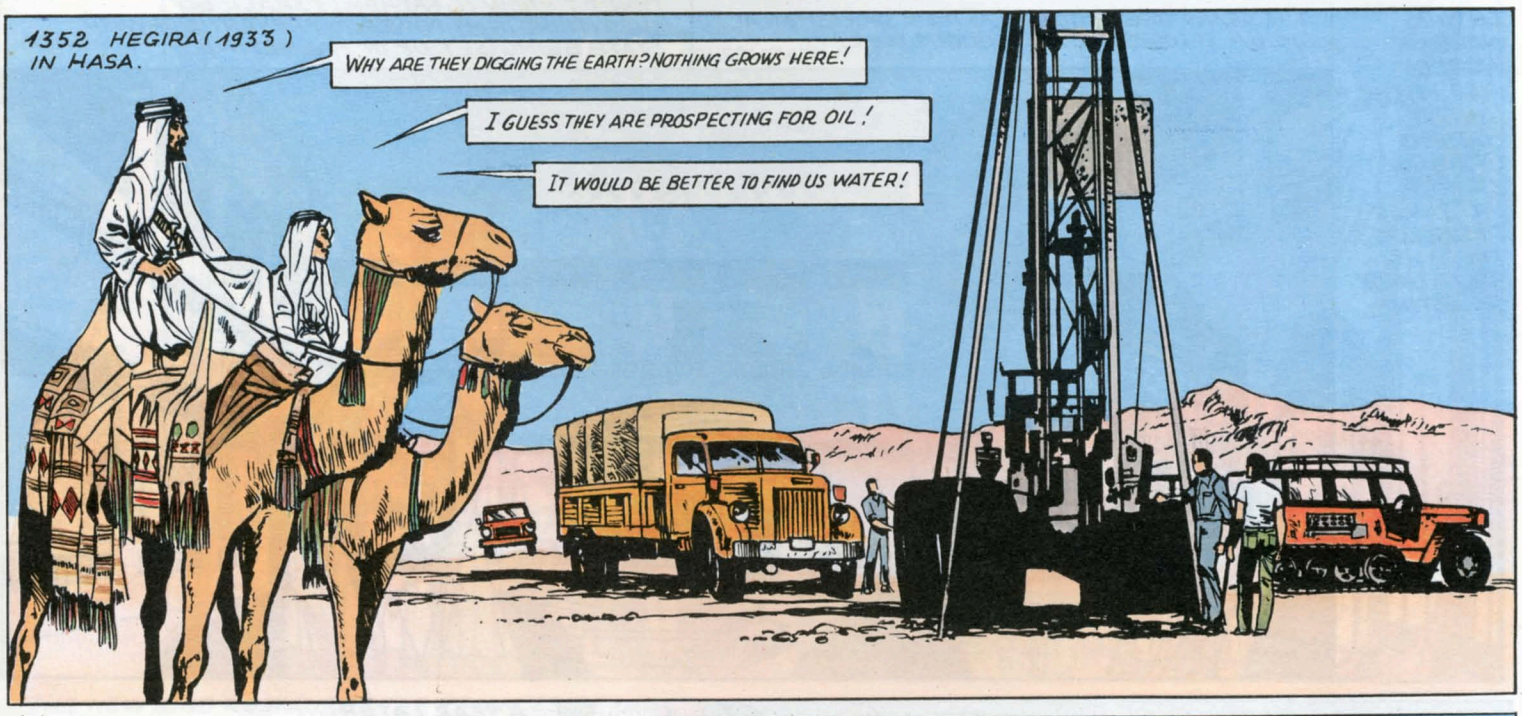
1932. OUT THE MOSQUE OF RIYADH...

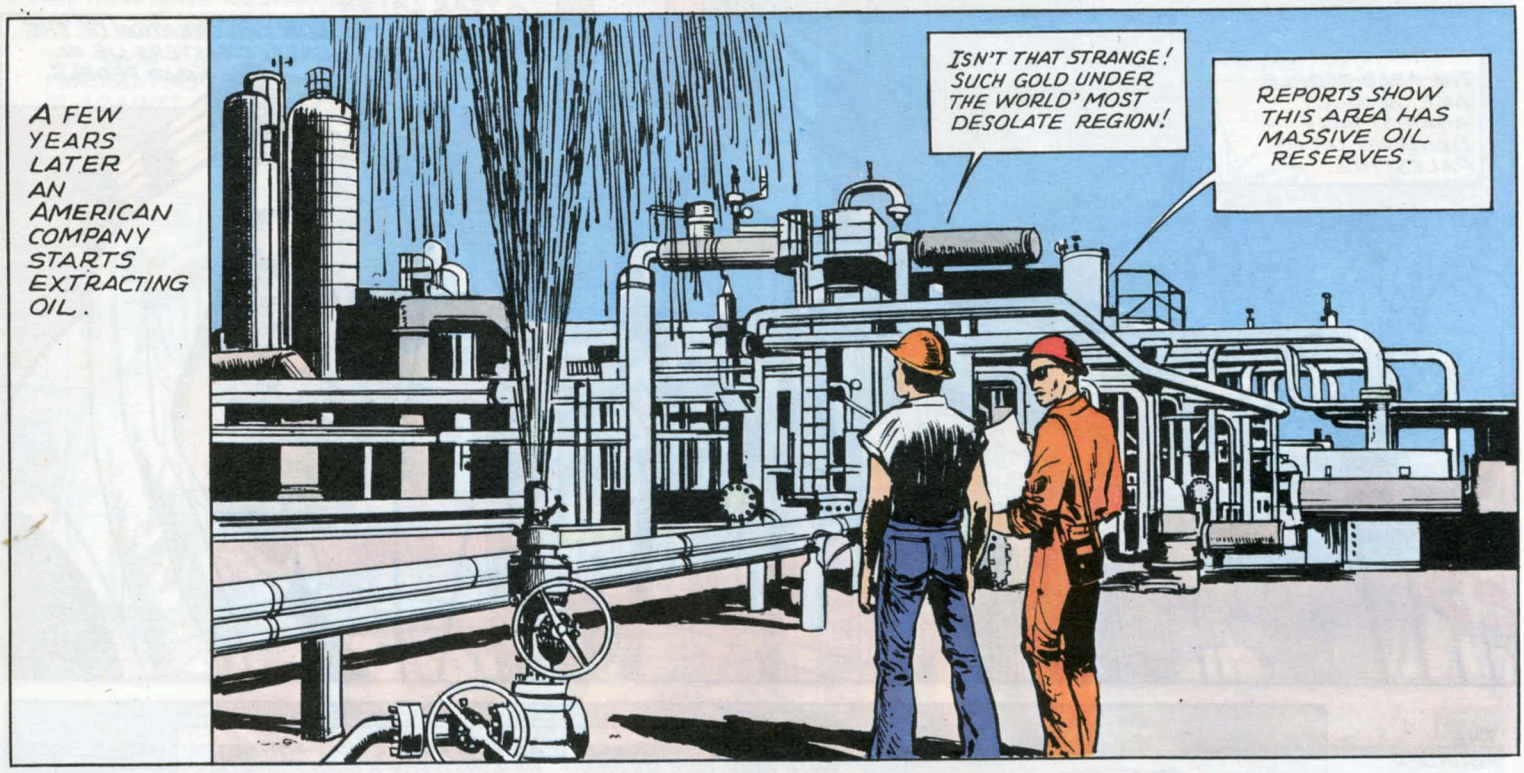
HENCEFORTH THERE ARE NO HASA, HEDJAZ, NEDJD AND OTHER KINGDOMS, BUT ONE SINGLE NATION : SAUDI ARABIA!

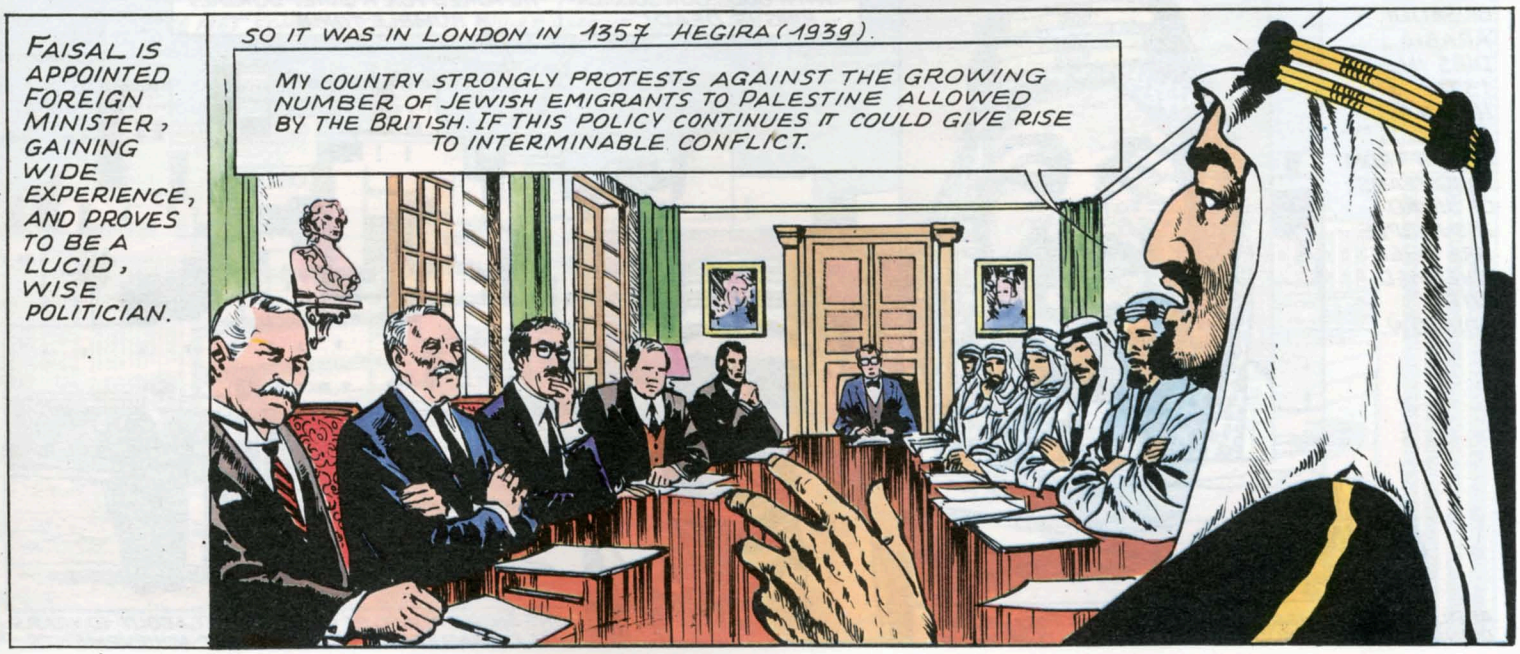
LONG LIVE THE KING!

LONG LIVE SAUDI ARABIA!

THE MAJORITY OF THE GREAT POWERS RECOGNISE THE NEW NATION, AWARE THAT A NEW POWER WOULD APPEAR ON THE MAP OF THE WORLD.


1352 HEGIRA (1933)
IN HASA.
WHY ARE THEY DIGGING THE EARTH? NOTHING GROWS HERE!
I GUESS THEY ARE PROSPECTING FOR OIL!
IT WOULD BE BETTER TO FIND US WATER!


A FEW YEARS LATER AN AMERICAN COMPANY STARTS EXTRACTING OIL.
ISN'T THAT STRANGE! SUCH GOLD UNDER THE WORLD' MOST DESOLATE REGION!
REPORTS SHOW THIS AREA HAS MASSIVE OIL RESERVES.


FAISAL IS APPOINTED FOREIGN MINISTER, GAINING WIDE EXPERIENCE, AND PROVES TO BE A LUCID, WISE POLITICIAN.
SO IT WAS IN LONDON IN 1357 HEGIRA (1939).
MY COUNTRY STRONGLY PROTESTS AGAINST THE GROWING NUMBER OF JEWISH EMIGRANTS TO PALESTINE ALLOWED BY THE BRITISH. IF THIS POLICY CONTINUES IT COULD GIVE RISE TO INTERMINABLE CONFLICT.

IN THE WAKE OF WORLD WAR II, THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION PREPARES TO DISCUSS THE SPLIT-UP OF PALESTINE.

THE ARABS HAVE CHOSEN YOU AS THEIR SPOKESMAN AT THE U.N. IT LOOKS LIKE AN ARDUOUS TASK!

DON'T I KNOW IT, FATHER! I SHALL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO PREVENT A JEWISH STATE BEING SET UP IN PALESTINE!

1367 HEGIRA (1947) AT THE U.N. IN NEW YORK.

THE ARAB PEOPLE ARE WHOLLY AGAINST ANY DIVIDING UP OF PALESTINE.

A YEAR LATER...

I FAILED TO PREVENT THE CREATION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. GREAT DISASTERS LIE IN WAIT FOR THE ARAB PEOPLE.

THE FOUNDER OF SAUDI ARABIA DIES IN 1372 HEGIRA (1952), WEARY FROM LONG YEARS OF JIHAD. HIS PEOPLE ARE OVERWHELMED WITH SORROW.

ALL POWER LIES WITH GOD... OUR SOLDIER-KING IS DEAD!

HE WAS A TRUE WAHABITE. HE ASKED FOR A QUIET BURIAL, A HUMBLE TOMB...

ABDUL AZIZ LEAVES AN ACHIEVEMENT THAT IS TO GO DOWN IN HISTORY. SAUD, HIS FIRST SON SUCCEEDS HIM.

KING SAUD'S PERIOD OF GOVERNMENT, ABOUT 10 YEARS WAS CHARACTERIZED BY MANY GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS.

POWER IS HANDED OVER TO FAISAL IN 1384 HEGIRA (1964) AT THE AGE OF 58. EMIR KHALED, HIS BROTHER, BECOMES CROWN PRINCE.

MY FATHER BROUGHT UNITY TO THIS COUNTRY. I SHALL CONSOLIDATE THIS, AND STRENGTHEN THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE.

THE NEW KING RESTAURES THE FINANCES OF THE NATION. HE CAMPAIGNS AGAINST WASTE...

YOU WON'T GET THAT DRAFT PLAN THROUGH AS IT STANDS. THE KING IS AGAINST COSTLY PRESTIGE SCHEMES.

I'LL HAVE IT REDONE THEN.

HE ATTACKS CORRUPTION, SPECIAL FAVOURS...

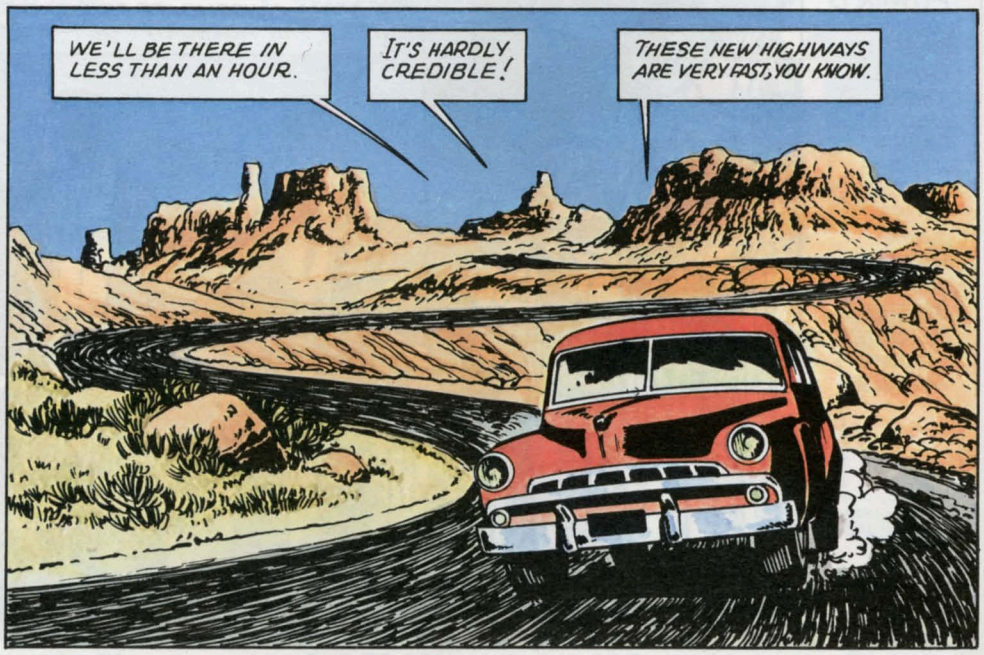
DON'T USE THAT GOVERNMENT CAR FOR YOUR OWN TRIPS, ALI. YOU COULDT REGRET IT!

FAISAL MODERNISES GOVERNMENT METHODS, BUILDS A SOUND ADMINISTRATION. HE CONSULTS WITH DYNAMIC QUALIFIED EXPERTS. THIS NEW TEAM BOOTS NATIONAL UNITY.

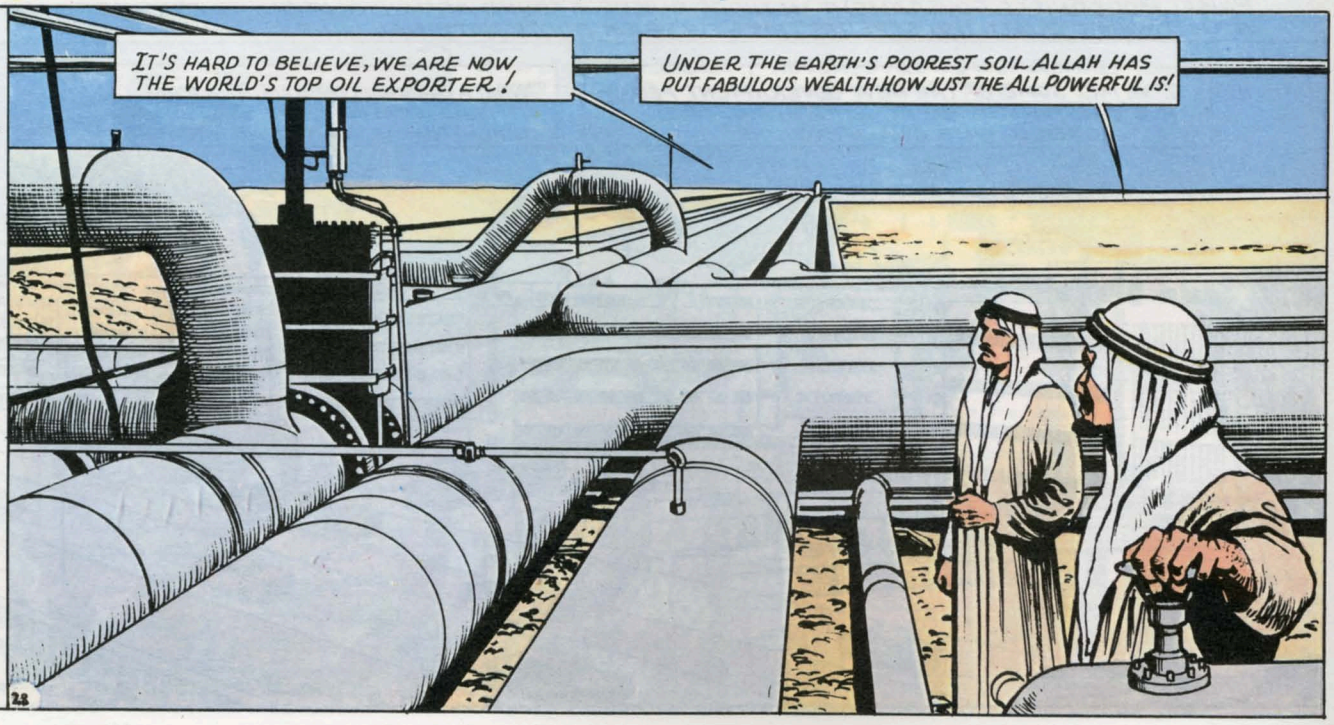
I'VE MET SOME OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT PEOPLE. THEY'VE STUDIED AT LENGTH, AND ARE LOADED WITH QUALIFICATIONS!

WHAT A CHANGE IN THE COUNTRY! A SCATTERING OF TRIBES HAS BECOME A PROPERLY ORGANISED COUNTRY, RUN BY A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT!

THE MIDDLE EAST HAD NEVER SEEN SUCH EFFORTS IN THIS DOMAIN.



THANKS TO STRONGER GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY, THE ECONOMY DEVELOPS FAST. OIL BRINGS IMMENSE FINANCIAL INFLUENCE TO SAUDI ARABIA.



LIKE HIS FATHER, FAISAL HAS MANY WELLS DRILLED. HE SEEKS WATER RESERVES FOR IRRIGATING THE DESERT.

YOUR MAJESTY! LOOKS LIKE WE FOUND ANOTHER GUSHER!

AROUND THIS WELL, THERE'LL BE AN ISLAND OF VEGETATION SOON. WE'LL GROW CROPS HERE!

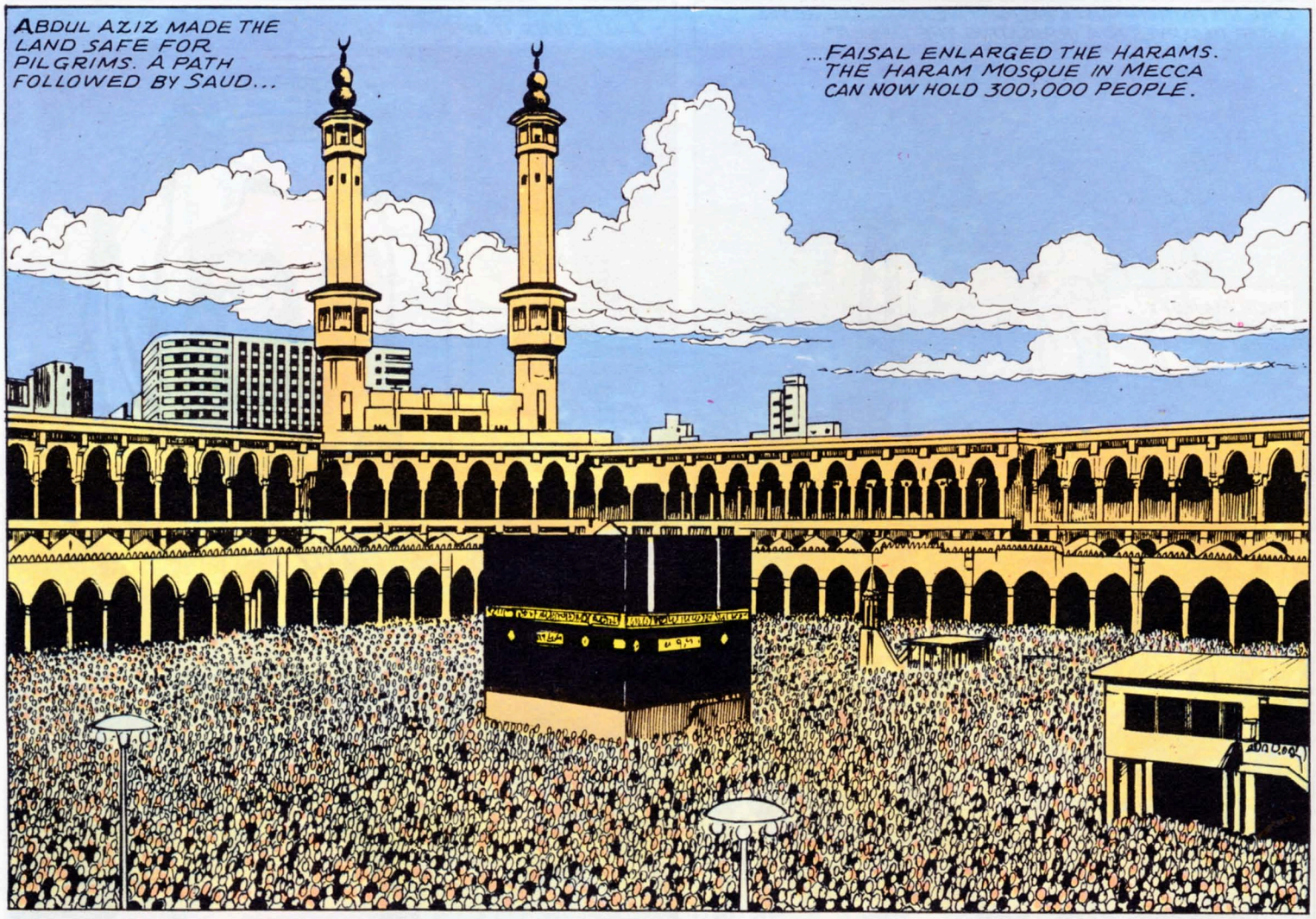
FAISAL CONCENTRATES EFFORTS ON EDUCATION AND GIVES IT SPECIAL ATTENTION.

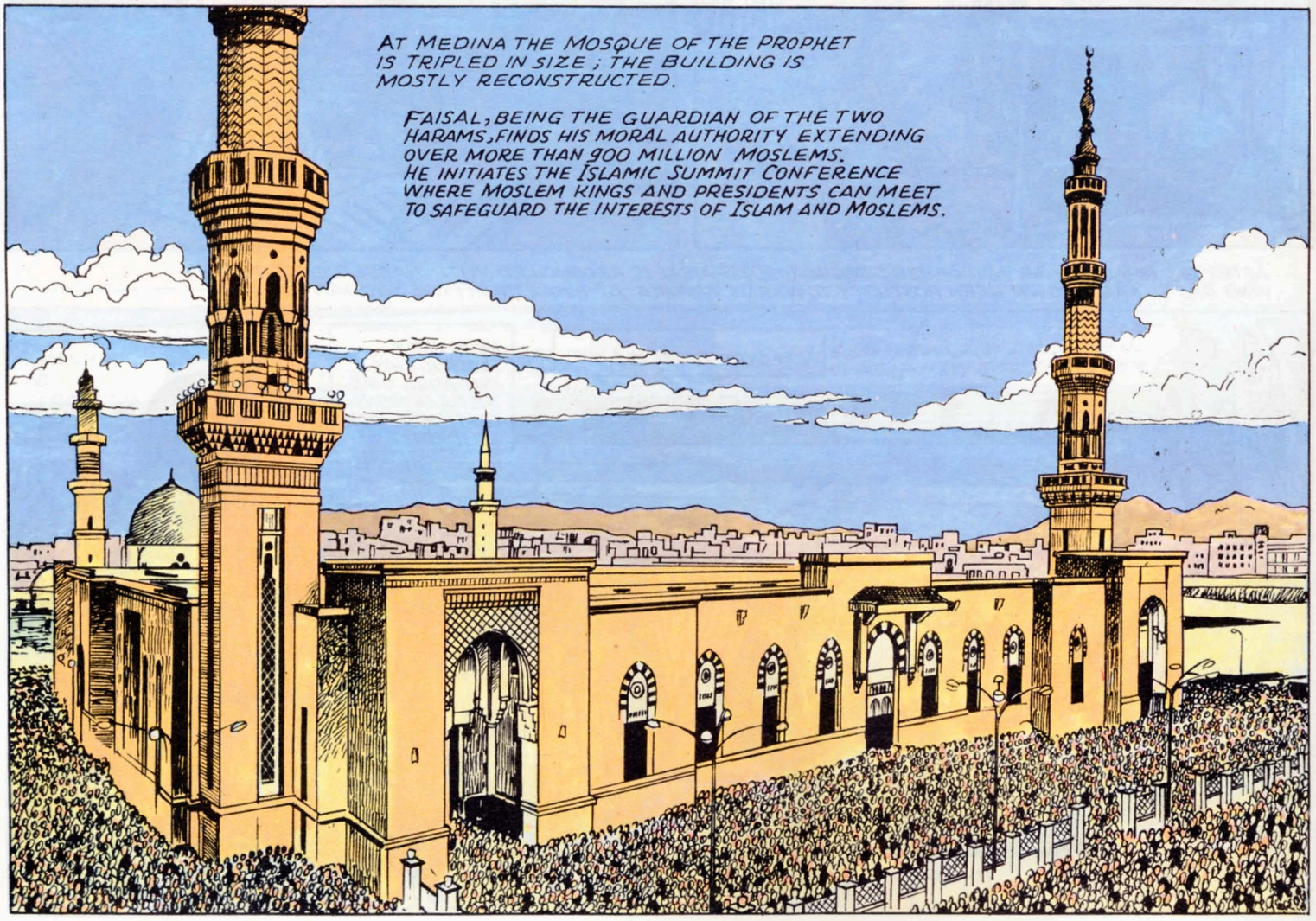
WE DRILL WELLS FOR WATER AND OIL BUT THE MOST VITAL IS IS THE WELL OF KNOW-LEDGE.

AFTER THE ISRAELI-ARAB WAR OF 1387 HEGIRA (1967) FAISAL IS RECONCILED WITH NASSER OF EGYPT, WHO HAS SO FAR SHOWN KEEN HOSTILITY TOWARDS ARABIA. AT KHARTOUM (THE SOUDAN):

HOW GREAT FAISAL IS!

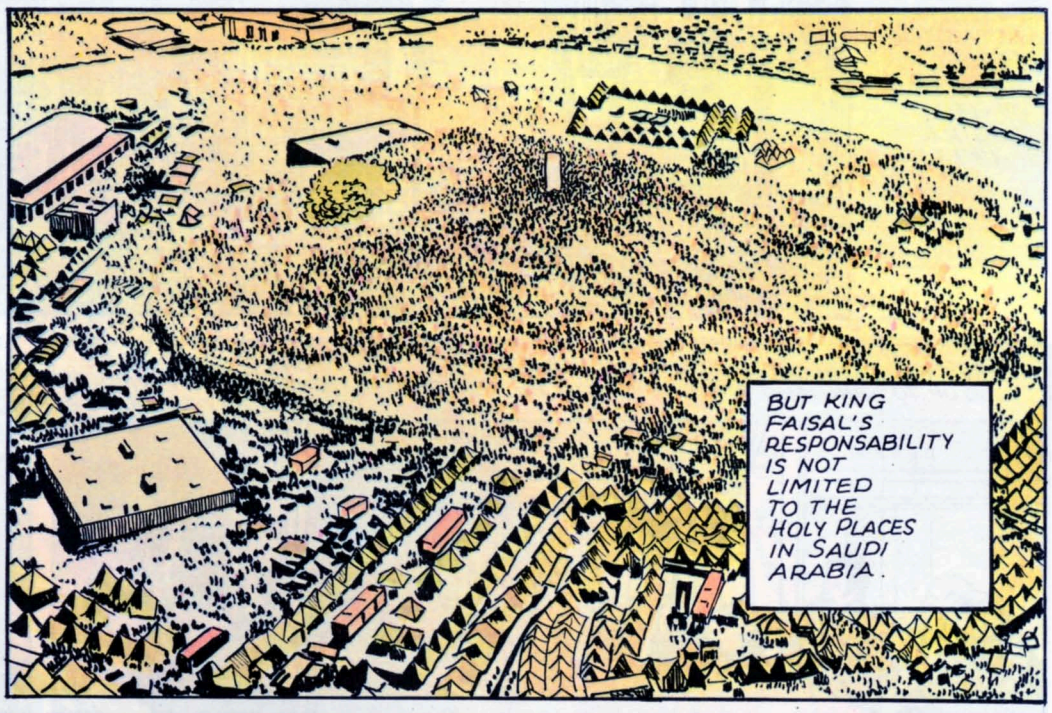
HE IS VERY TACTFUL; HIS INITIATIVE WAS JUST A DEMONSTRATION OF ARAB SOLIDARITY.

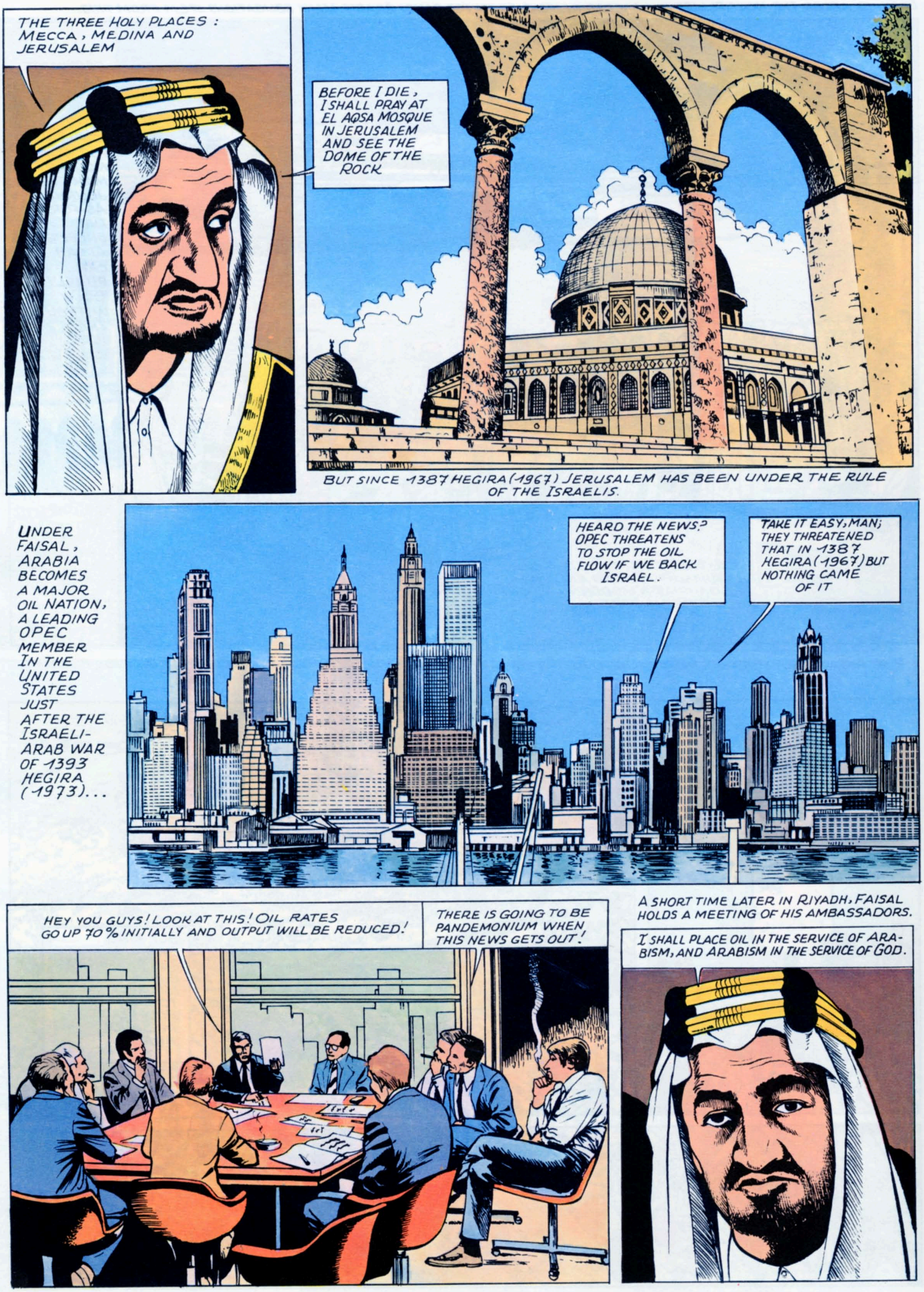

ABDUL AZIZ MADE THE LAND SAFE FOR PILGRIMS. A PATH FOLLOWED BY SAUD...
...FAISAL ENLARGED THE HARAMS. THE HARAM MOSQUE IN MECCA CAN NOW HOLD 300,000 PEOPLE.


AT MEDINA THE MOSQUE OF THE PROPHET IS TRIPLED IN SIZE ; THE BUILDING IS MOSTLY RECONSTRUCTED.
FAISAL, BEING THE GUARDIAN OF THE TWO HARAMS, FINDS HIS MORAL AUTHORITY EXTENDING OVER MORE THAN 900 MILLION MOSLEMS. HE INITIATES THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE WHERE MOSLEM KINGS AND PRESIDENTS CAN MEET TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF ISLAM AND MOSLEMS.

LOOKING AFTER THE HOLY PLACES IS A SACRED RESPONSABILITY FOR SAUDI ARABIA. MANY OBLIGATIONS STEM FROM THIS.

KING FAISAL'S GOVERNMENT HAS ARRANGED BETTER HEALTH SERVICE, ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT FACILITIES FOR PILGRIMS.




THE THREE HOLY PLACES : MECCA, MEDINA AND JERUSALEM
BEFORE I DIE, I SHALL PRAY AT EL AQSA MOSQUE IN JERUSALEM AND SEE THE DOME OF THE ROCK
BUT SINCE 1387 HEGIRA (1967) JERUSALEM HAS BEEN UNDER THE RULE OF THE ISRAELIS.
UNDER FAISAL, ARABIA BECOMES A MAJOR OIL NATION, A LEADING OPEC MEMBER IN THE UNITED STATES JUST AFTER THE ISRAELI-ARAB WAR OF 1393 HEGIRA (1973)...
HEARD THE NEWS? OPEC THREATENS TO STOP THE OIL FLOW IF WE BACK ISRAEL.
TAKE IT EASY, MAN; THEY THREATENED THAT IN 1387 HEGIRA (1967) BUT NOTHING CAME OF IT
HEY YOU GUYS! LOOK AT THIS! OIL RATES GO UP 70% INITIALLY AND OUTPUT WILL BE REDUCED!
THERE IS GOING TO BE PANDEMONIUM WHEN THIS NEWS GETS OUT!
A SHORT TIME LATER IN RIYADH, FAISAL HOLDS A MEETING OF HIS AMBASSADORS.
I SHALL PLACE OIL IN THE SERVICE OF ARABISM, AND ARABISM IN THE SERVICE OF GOD.

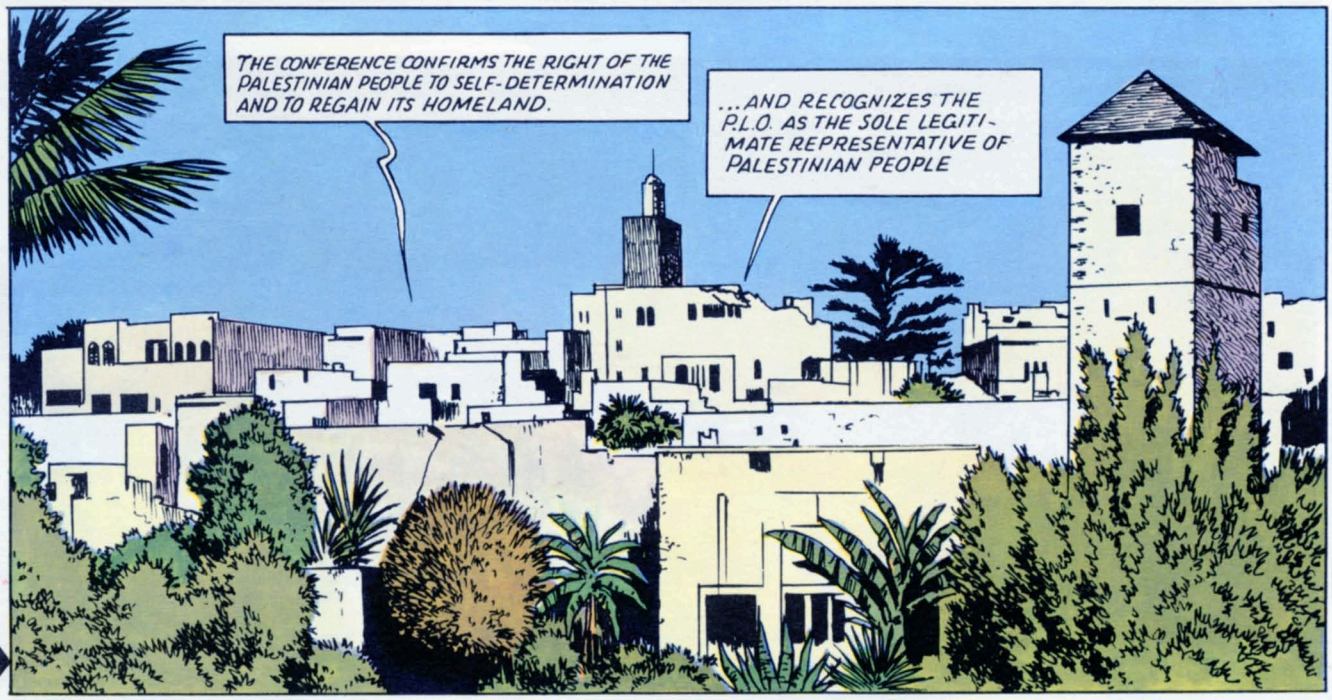
THE KING OUTLINES HIS POLICY ON THE PALESTINE QUESTION.

WE MUST DEFEND THE CAUSE OF THE PALESTINIANS BECAUSE IT IS BASIC TO ARABISM.

THE IMPERIALISTS MUST UNDERSTAND WE ARE NOT BARGAINING AS FAR AS OUR RIGHTS ARE CONCERNED.

AN ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE IS HELD IN 1394 HEGIRA (1974) AT LAHORE (PAKISTAN), WHERE FAISAL SUPPORTS THE P.L.O. TO THE FULL EXTENT OF HIS POWERS.

SOME MONTHS LATER AT THE ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE HELD IN RABAT



NOW WE MUST DO EVERYTHING TO RECONCILE KING HUSSEIN WITH YASSER ARAFAT.

RESENTMENT HAD KEPT THE P.L.O. LEADER AND JORDANIAN MONARCH APART. BUT AFTER THE SUMMIT

FAISAL'S BACKING OF THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE STRENGTHENS HIS PRESTIGE WORLD-WIDE.

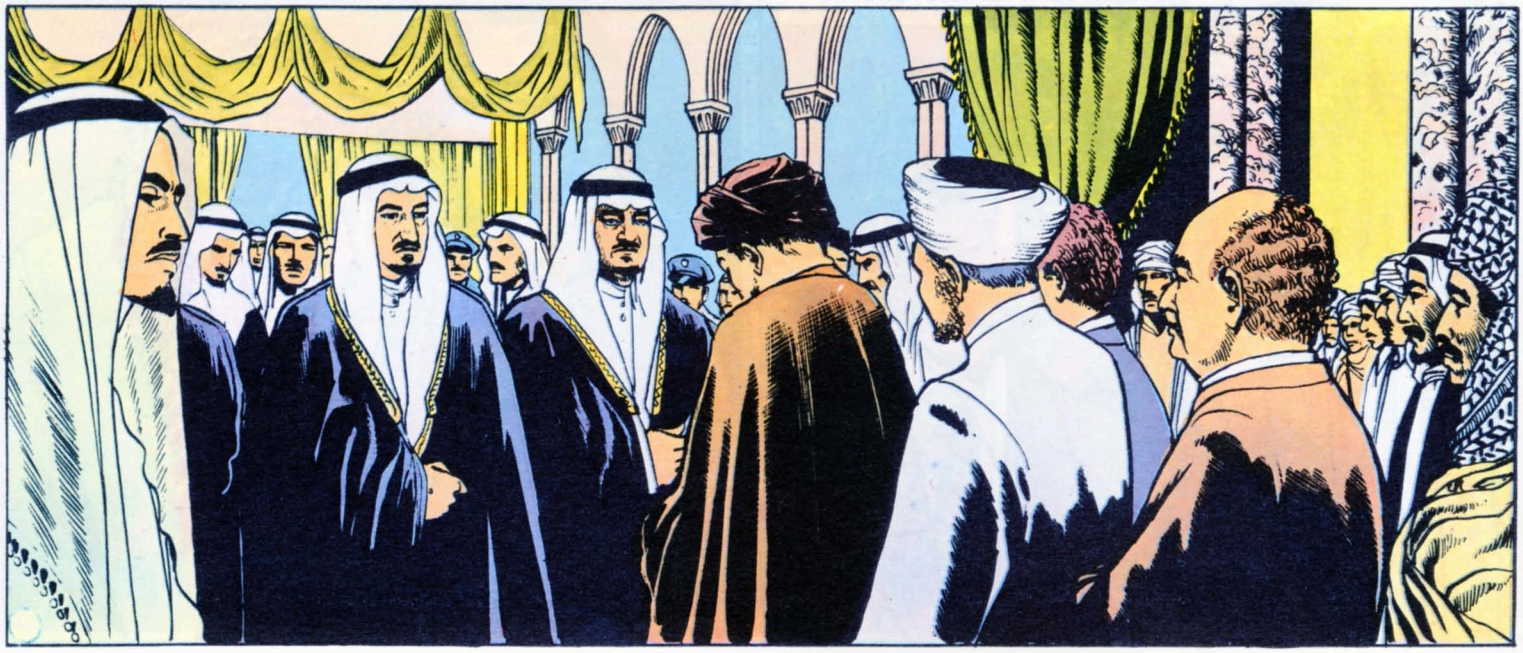
THE GLORIOUS RAMADAN WAR 1393 HEGIRA (1973) WHERE THE ARABS, WITH THEIR UNITY SUCCEEDED TO CONQUER THE ISRAELI ENEMY.

EGYPT SHOULD PLAY THE ROLE APPROPRIATE TO ITS IMPORTANCE, FOR THE HOPES OF ARABS AND MOSLEMS, AND SHOULD RELY ON OUR ABSOLUTE SUPPORT.

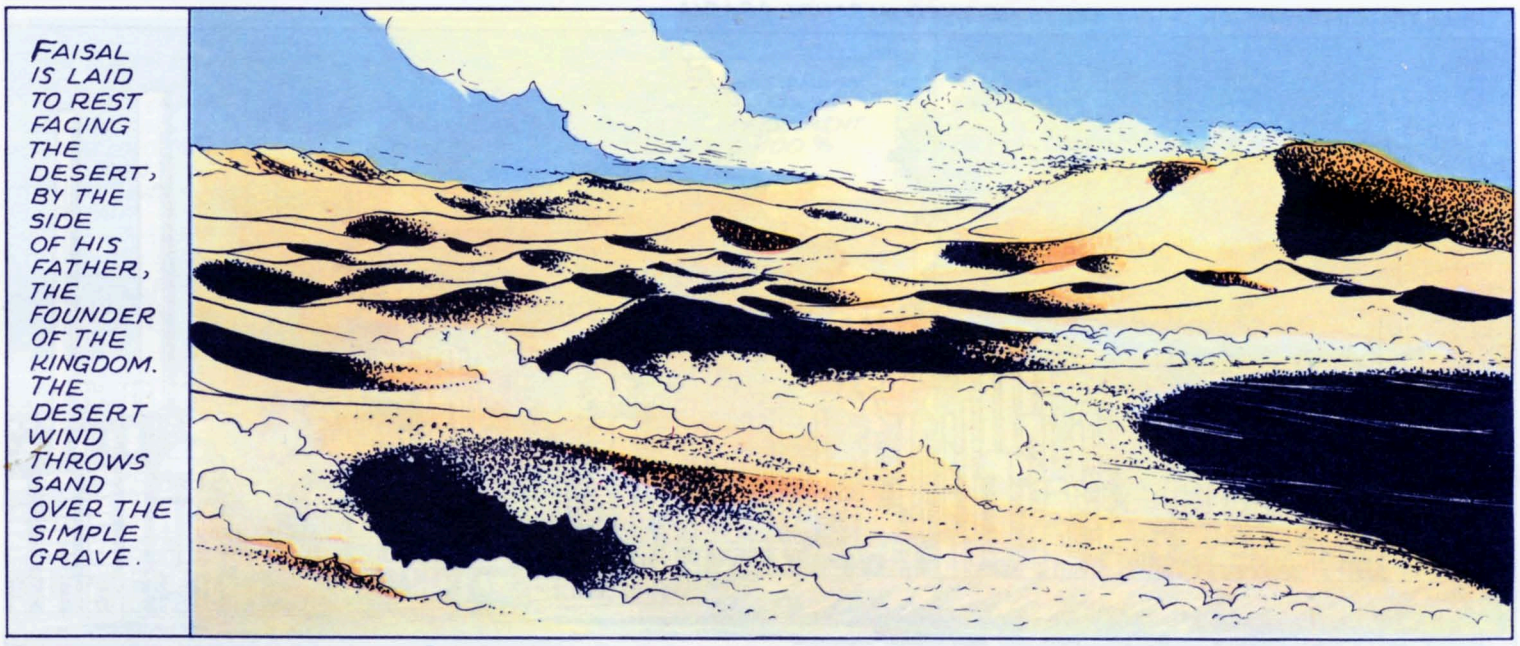
HIS MAJESTY IS AN EXPERT IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS; HE HAS ALSO MET MORE TOP POLITICAL FIGURES THAN MOST HEADS OF STATE HAVE.

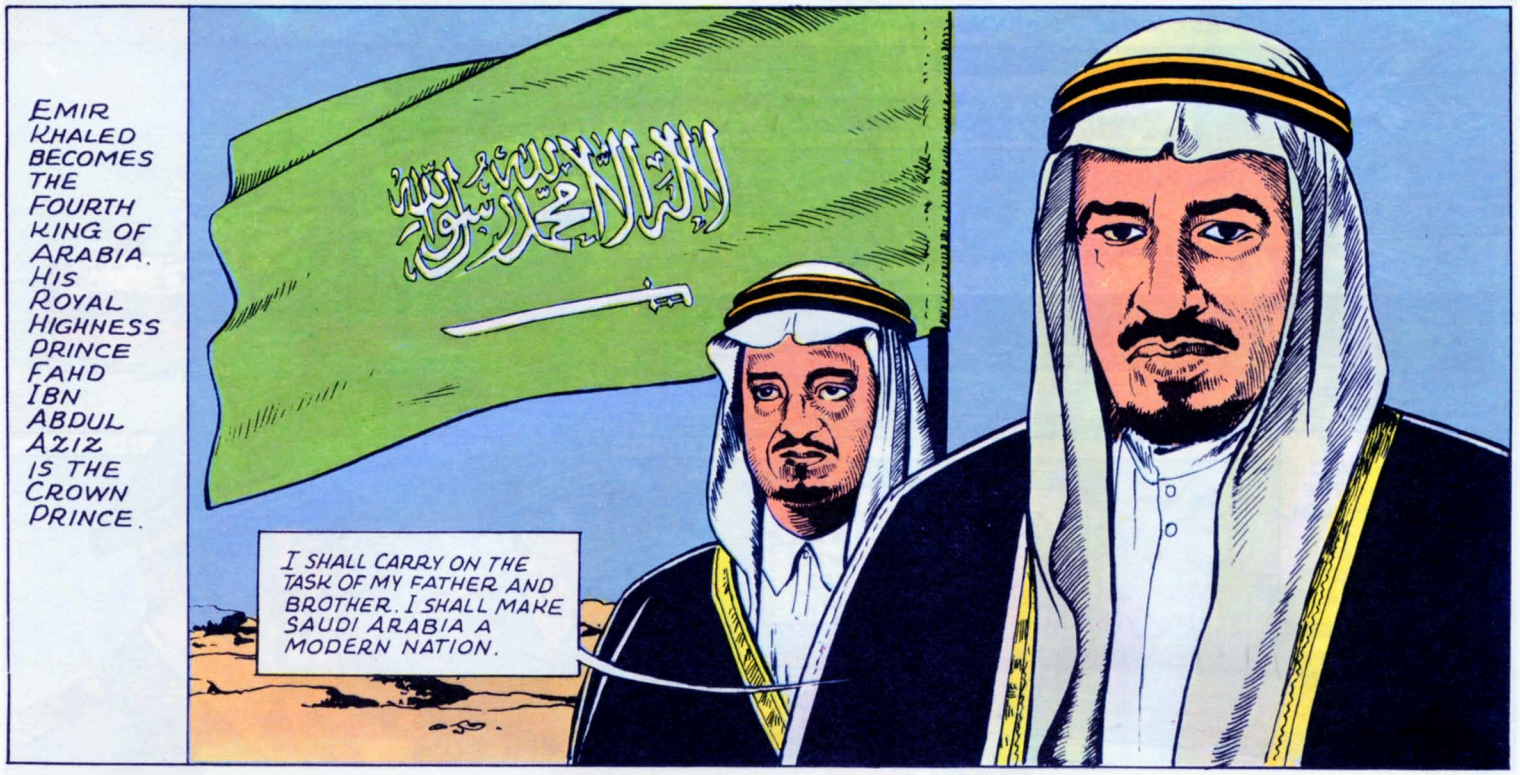
13 RA'BII AL AWAL 1395 HEGIRA (25 MARCH 1975) HIS MAJESTY KING **FAISAL BEN ABOUL AZIZ** GOES TO HEAVEN, BESIDE THE ALL-POWERFUL.

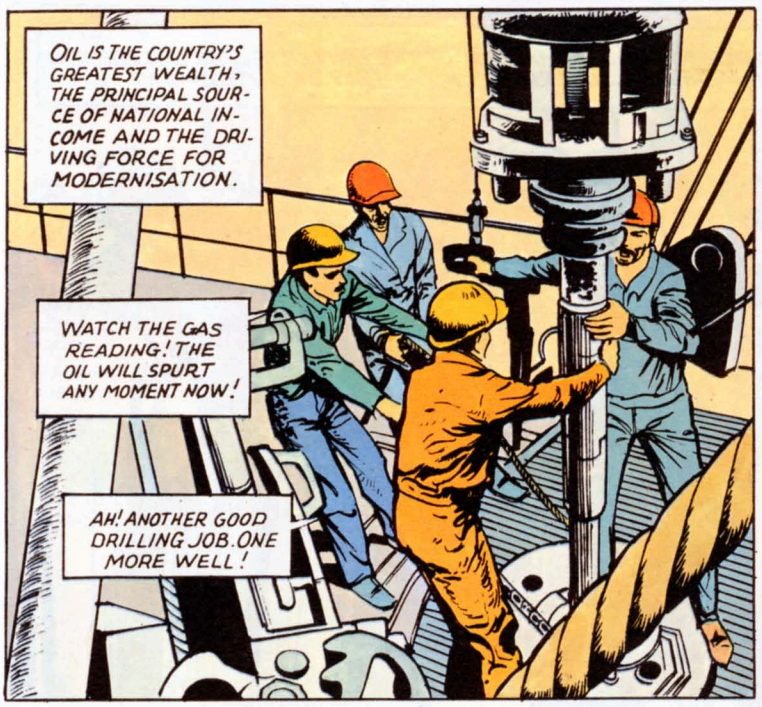
ARAB AND ISLAMIC DELEGATIONS CAME FOR CONDOLENCES.

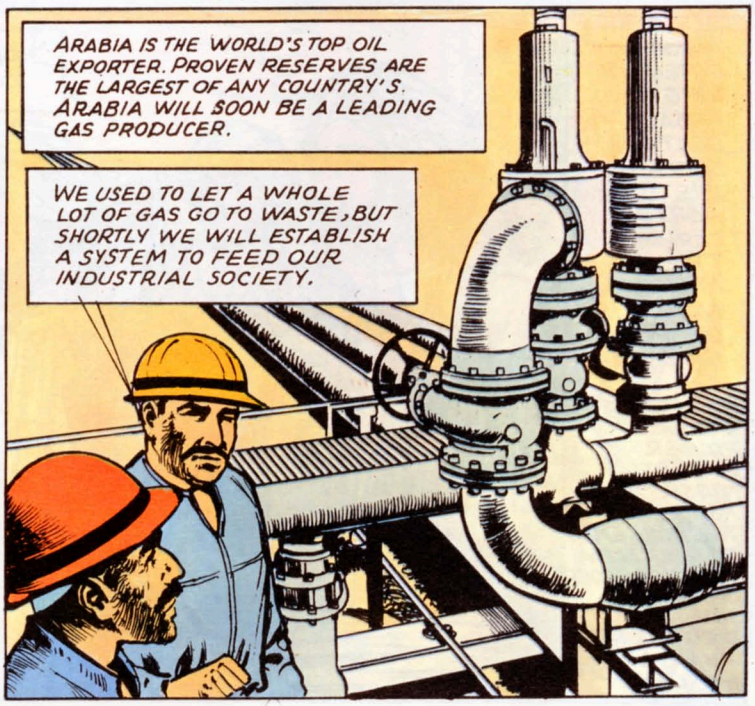


ANNOUNCEMENT OF KING FAISAL'S DEATH SHOCKS THE WORLD'S CAPITALS. THE MOSLEM WORLD IS DEEPLY GRIEVED.
NO RESORT AND NO POWER EXCEPT THOSE OF ALLAH... THE HORSEMAN OF JERUSALEM AND THE LEADER OF ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY DIED FOR THE JIHAH, A TRUE MOSLEM.
PRAISE TO GOD, THE MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, THE CLEMENT, THE MERCIFUL, SOVEREIGN ON THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT...

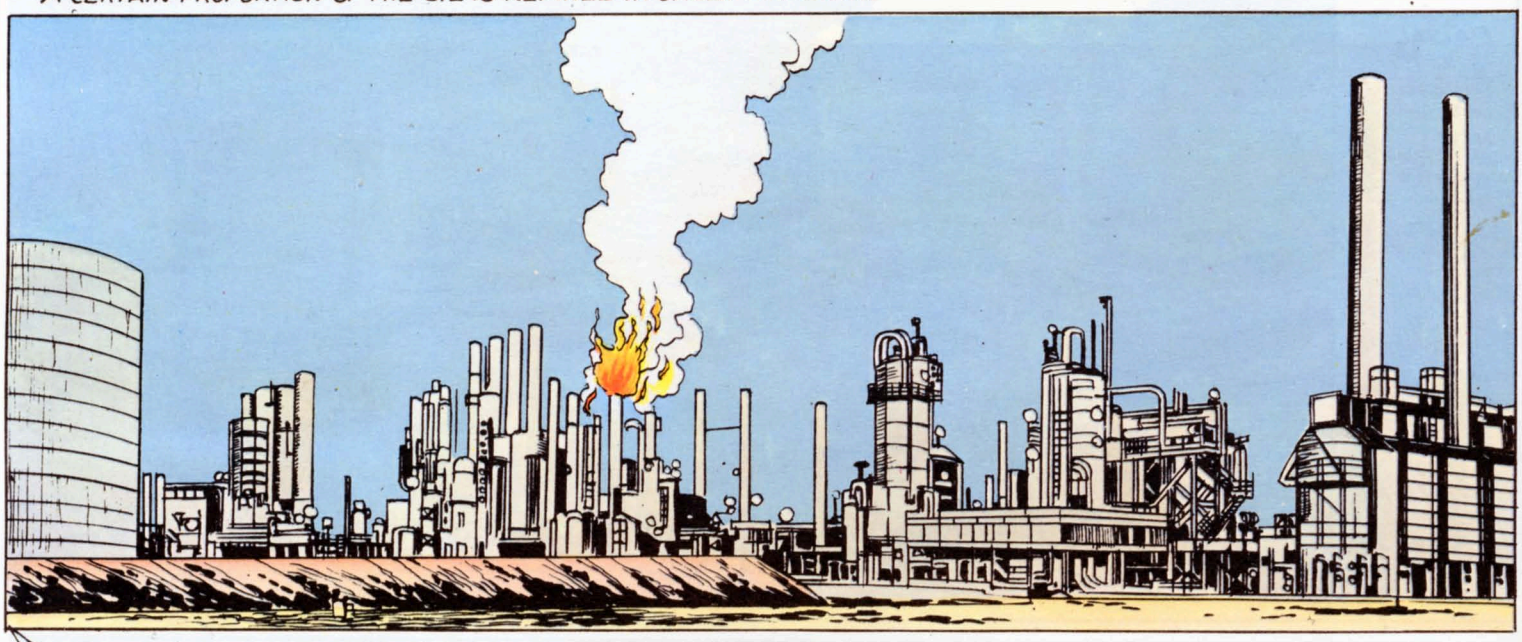

FAISAL IS LAID TO REST FACING THE DESERT, BY THE SIDE OF HIS FATHER, THE FOUNDER OF THE KINGDOM. THE DESERT WIND THROWS SAND OVER THE SIMPLE GRAVE.


EMIR KHALED BECOMES THE FOURTH KING OF ARABIA. HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE FAHD IBN ABDUL AZIZ IS THE CROWN PRINCE.
I SHALL CARRY ON THE TASK OF MY FATHER AND BROTHER. I SHALL MAKE SAUDI ARABIA A MODERN NATION.

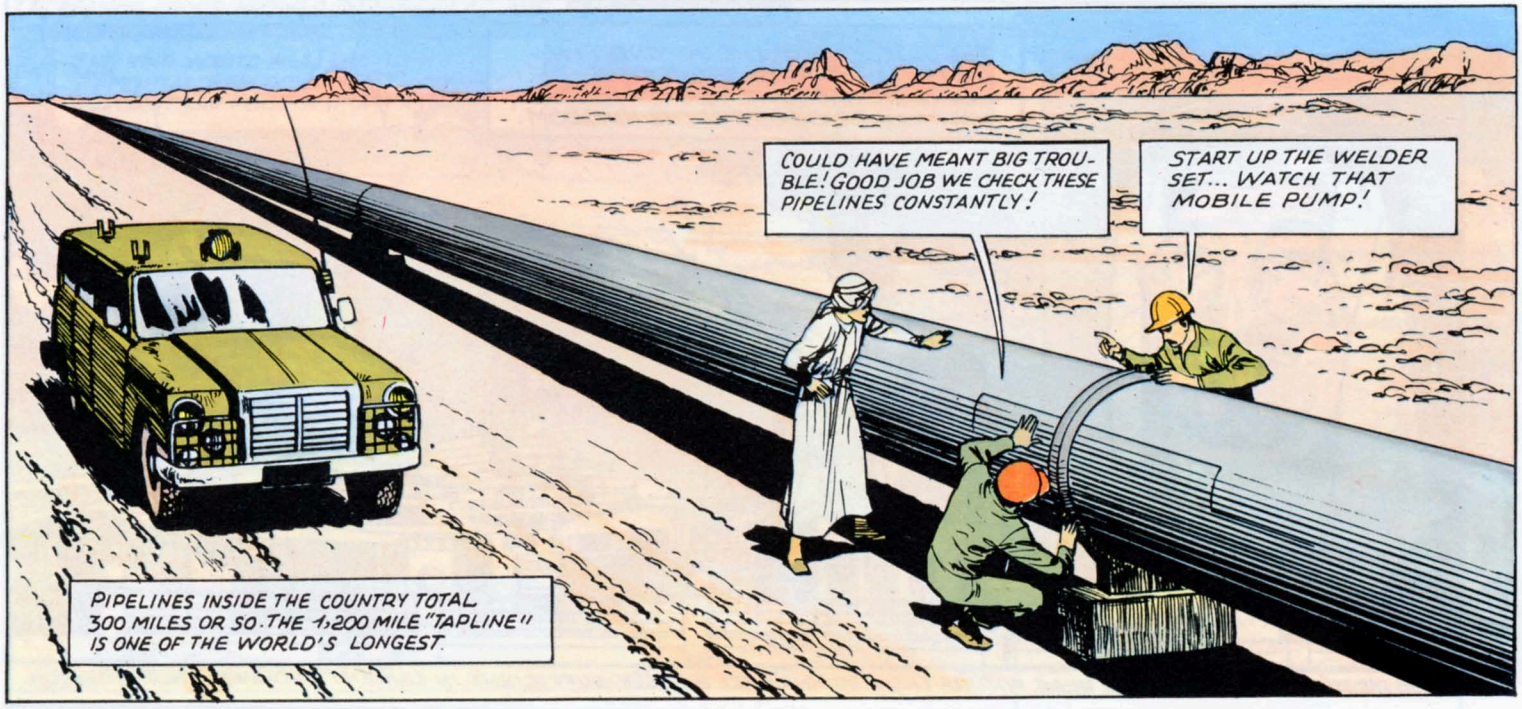


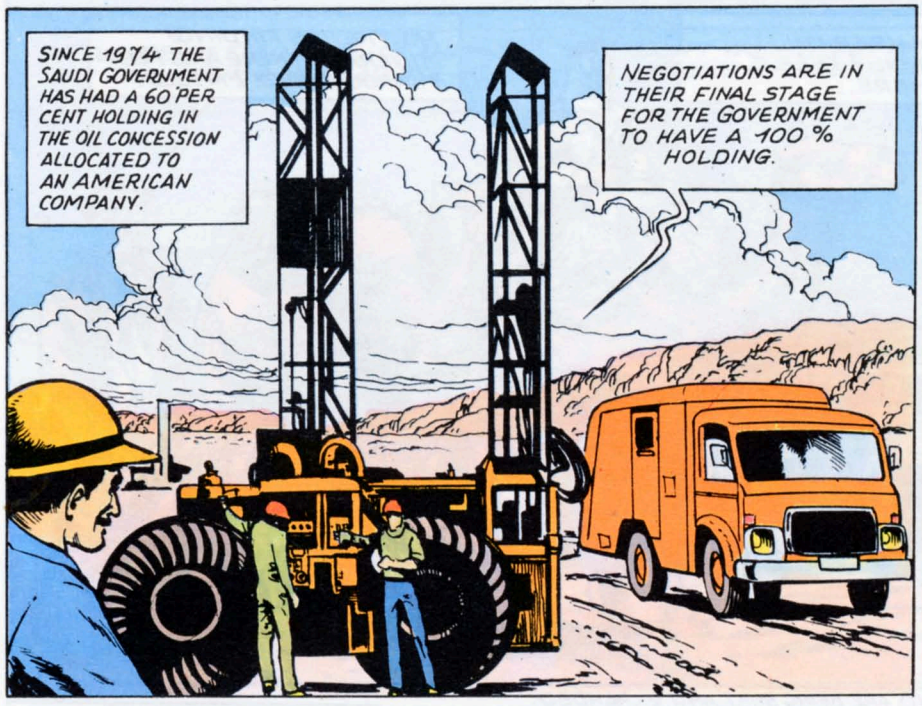


A CERTAIN PROPORTION OF THE OIL IS REFINED IN SAUDI ARABIA...



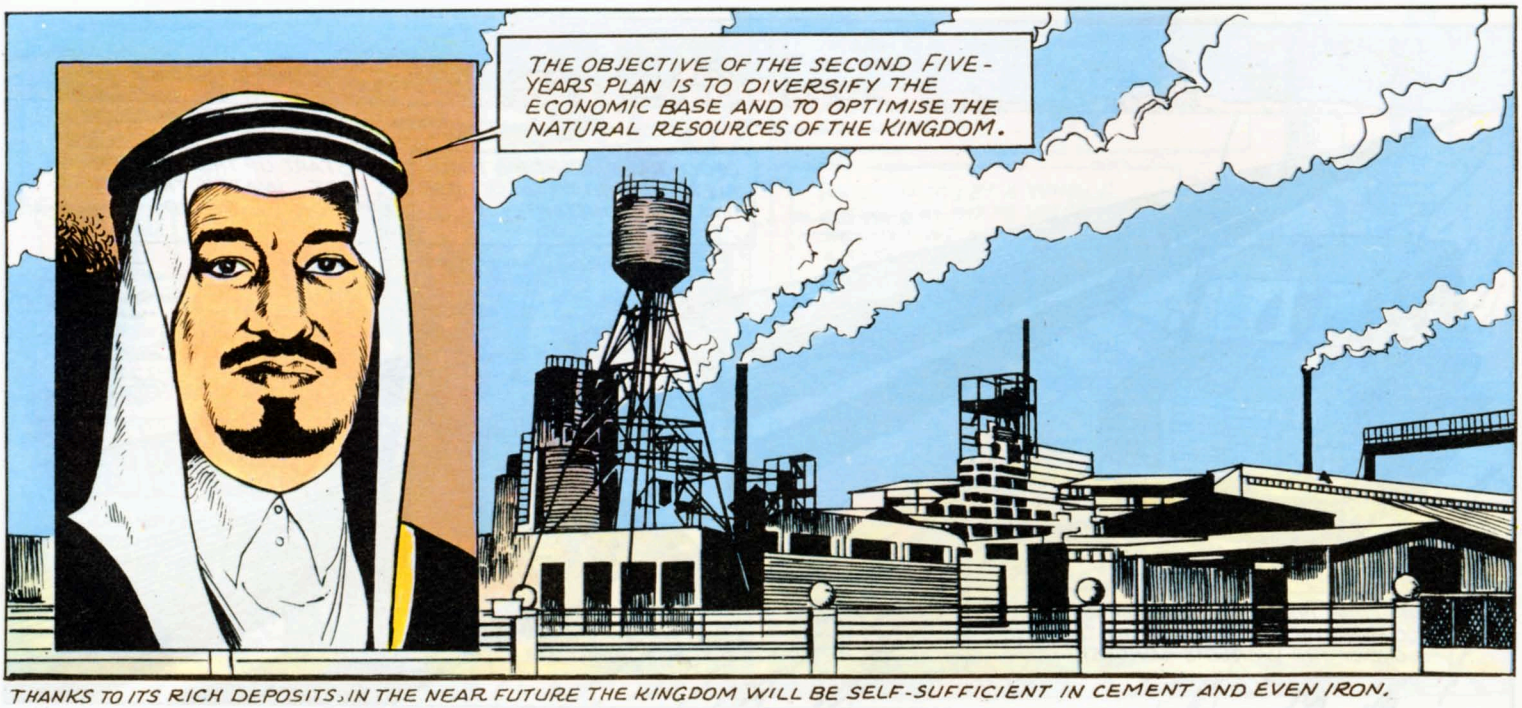
...THE REST GOES TO MODERN TANKER TERMINALS.



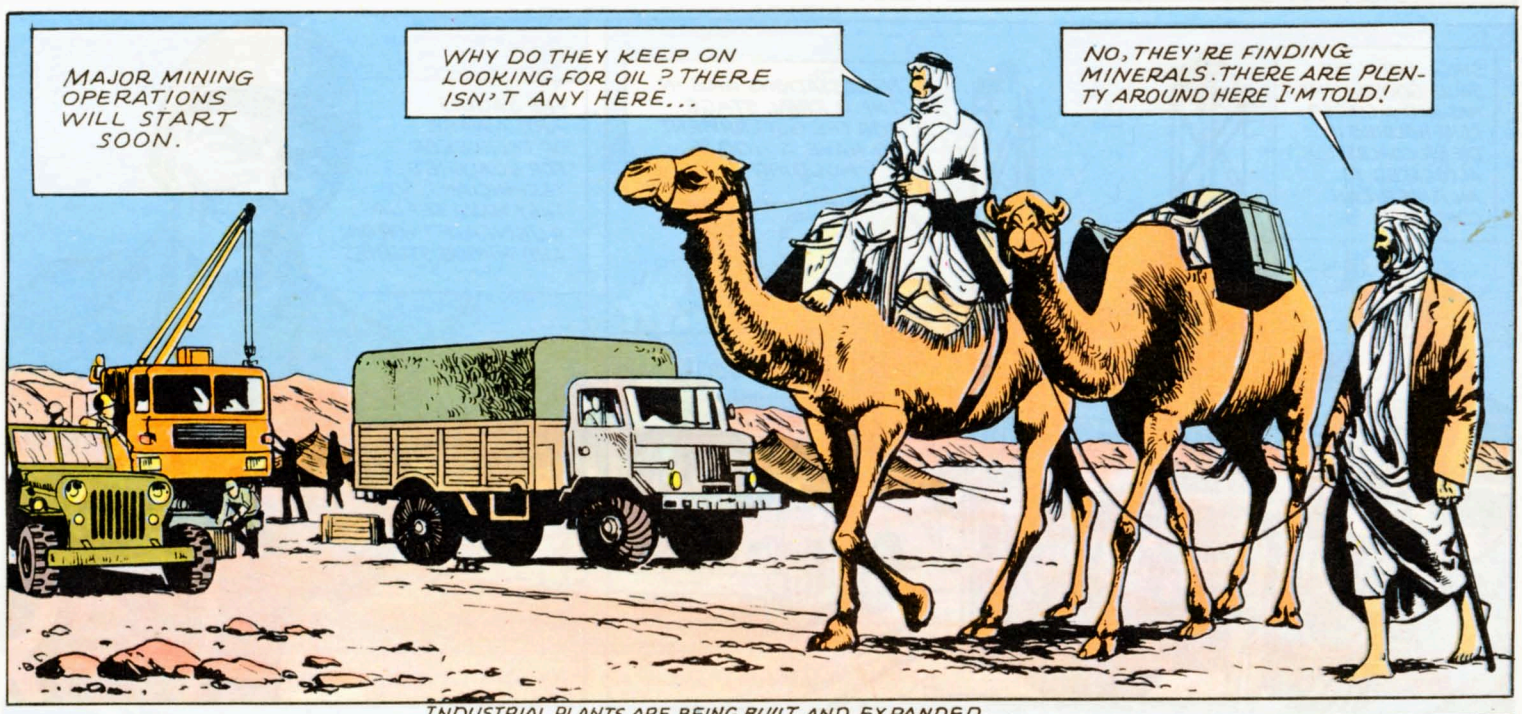


THE UNIVERSITY OF OIL AND MINING STUDIES WAS FOUNDED BY KING FAISAL IN 1394 HEGIRA (1974), AND WILL HAVE A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY 1405 HÉGIRA (1985)

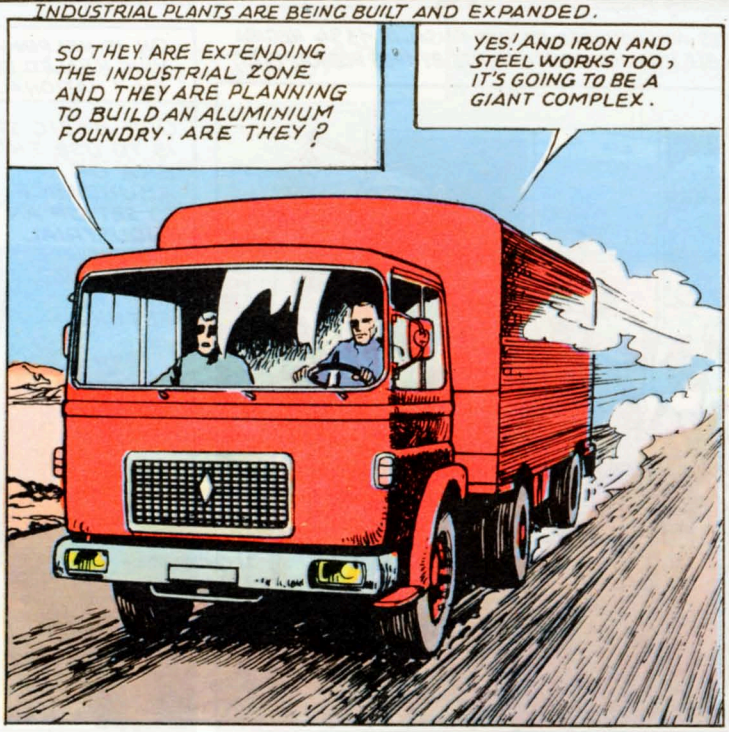
OIL IS HELPING ECONOMIC GROWTH, BUT KING KHALED DOES NOT WANT IT TO BE THE ONLY NATIONAL RESOURCE.

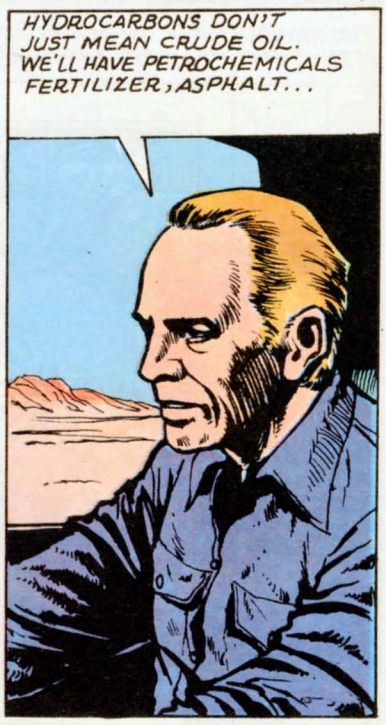


THANKS TO ITS RICH DEPOSITS, IN THE NEAR FUTURE THE KINGDOM WILL BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN CEMENT AND EVEN IRON.

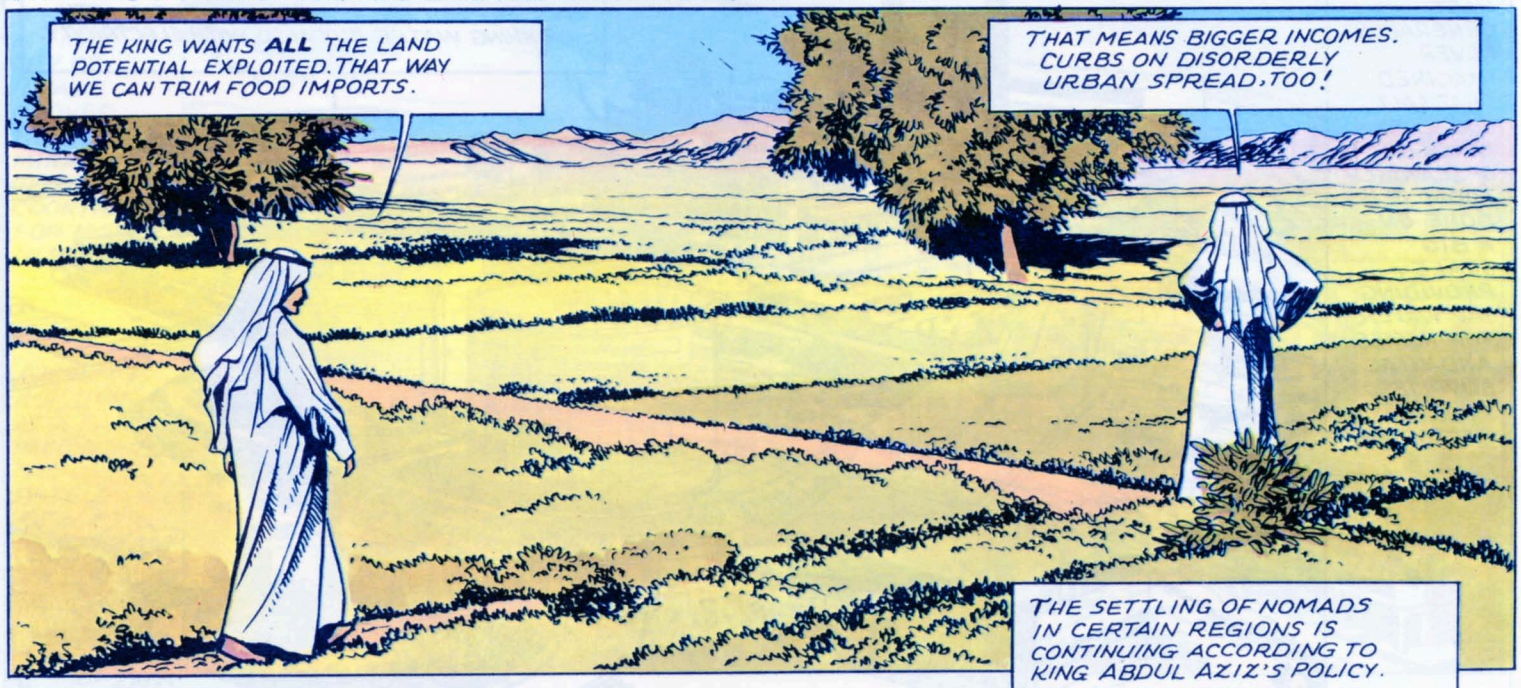


INDUSTRIAL PLANTS ARE BEING BUILT AND EXPANDED.





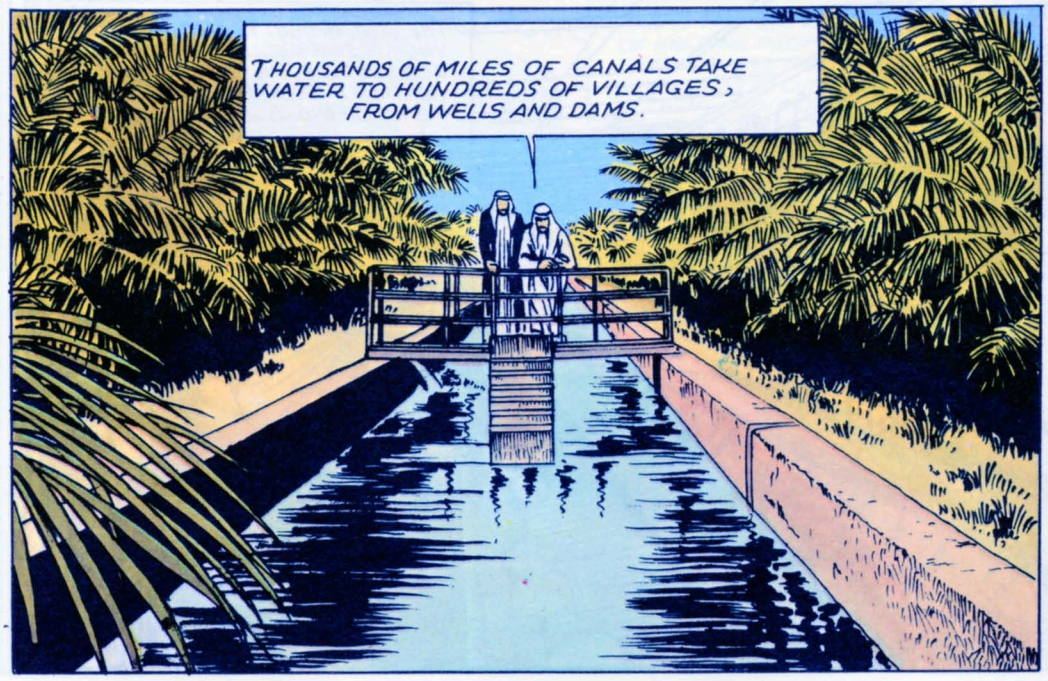
INCREASING CROPS AND IRRIGATING LAND ARE PRIORITIES TODAY.



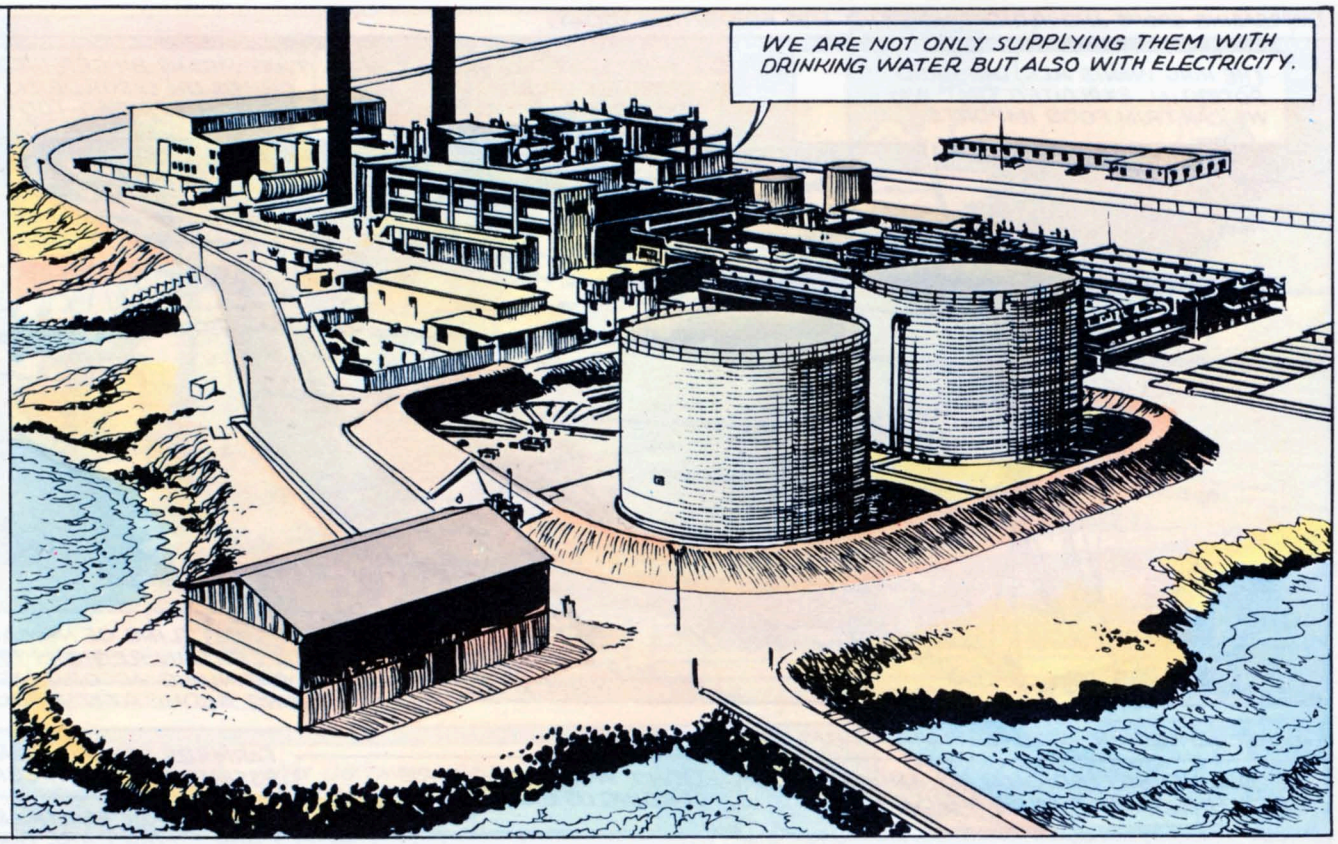
A SPECIAL AGENCY IS SUPERVISING FARM MODERNISATION.

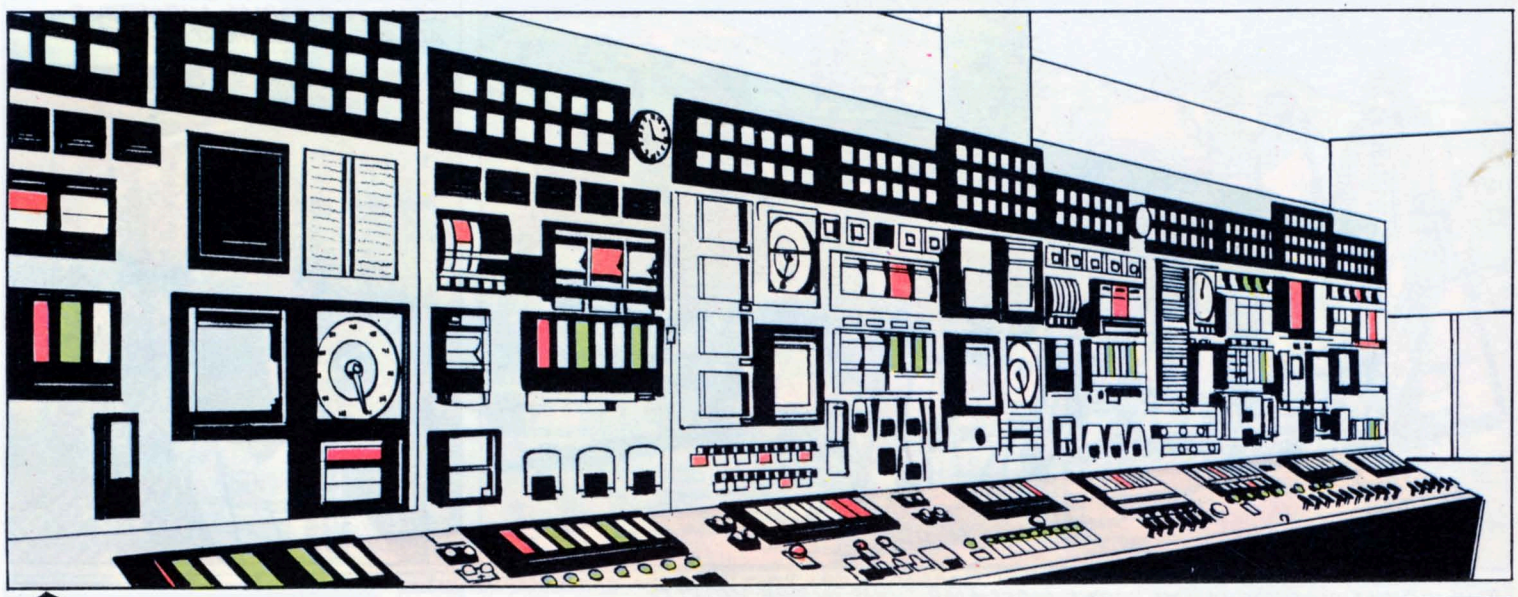
FARMERS BENEFIT NOW FROM ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES.

THE IRRIGATION PROGRAMME IS THE MOST AMBITIOUS IN THE WORLD.



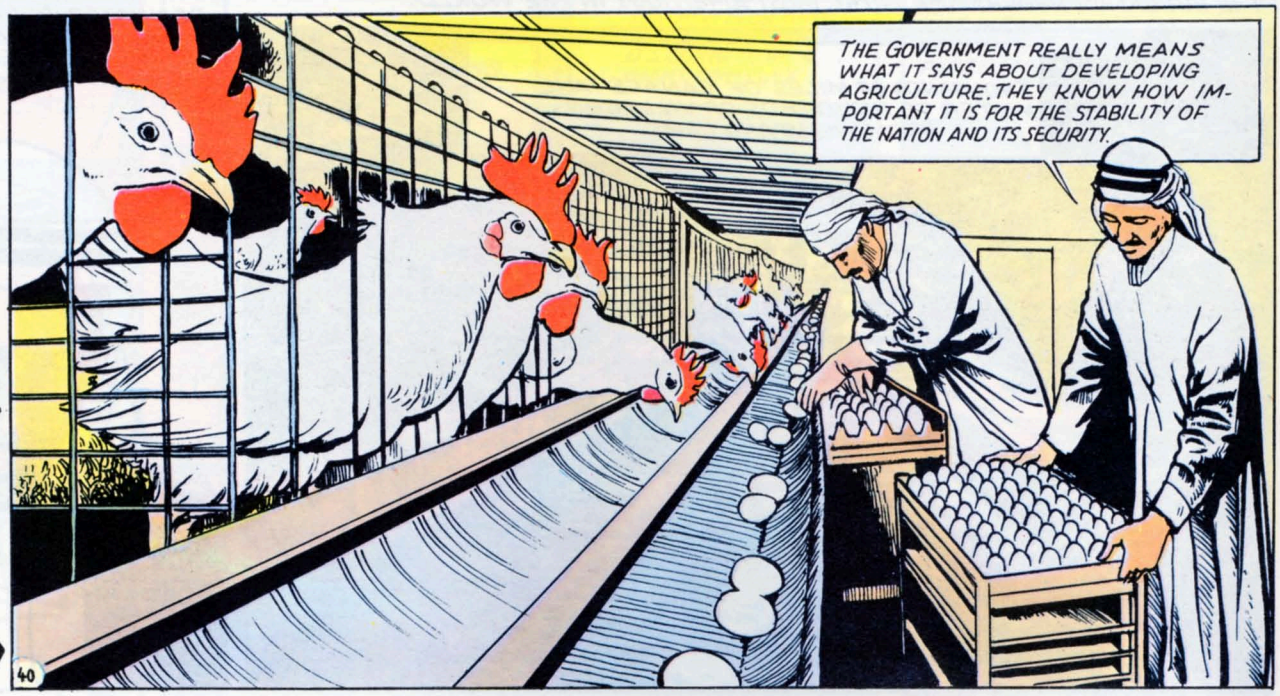
PAST GENERATIONS NEVER IMAGINED THAT SALT COULD BE TAKEN OUT OF SEAWATER. TODAY IT IS DONE ON A BIG SCALE, PROVIDING TAP-WATER FOR HOMES AND VITAL SUPPLIES FOR FACTORIES.



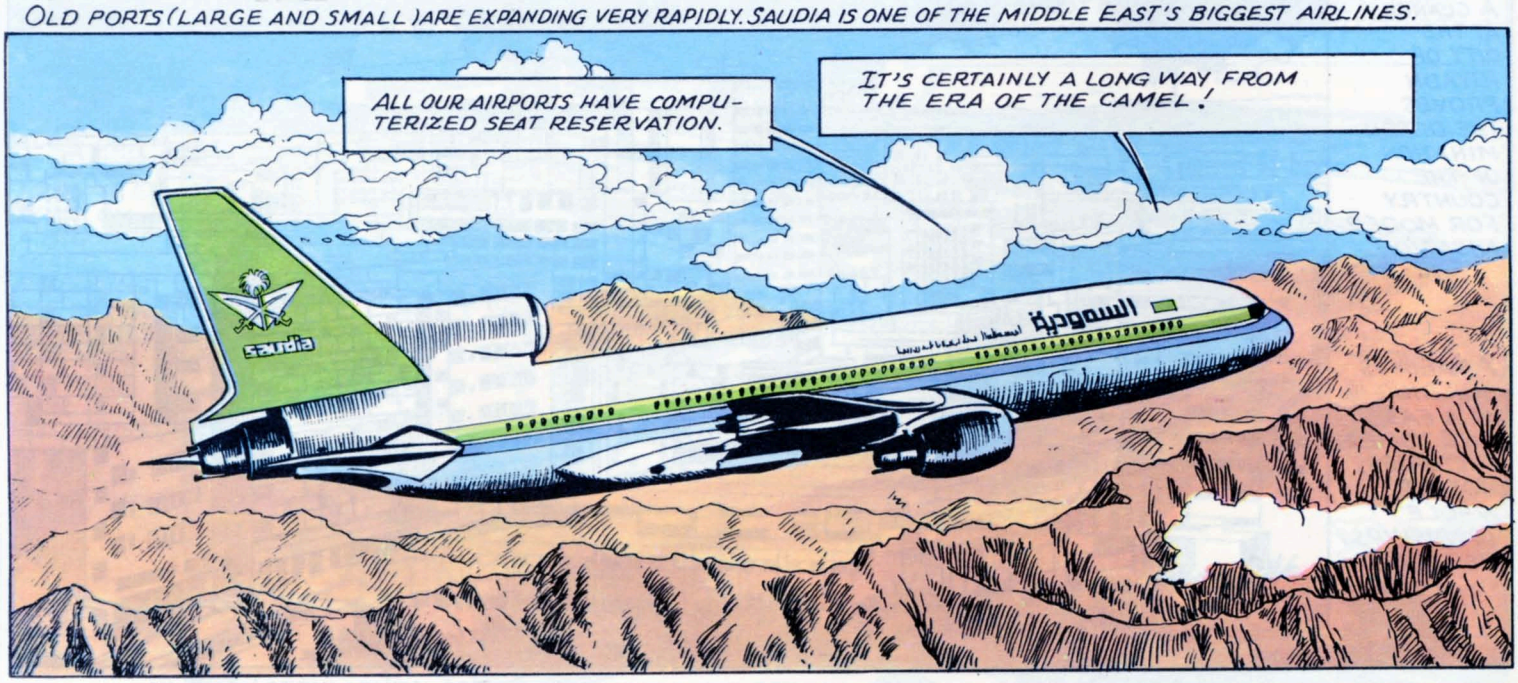


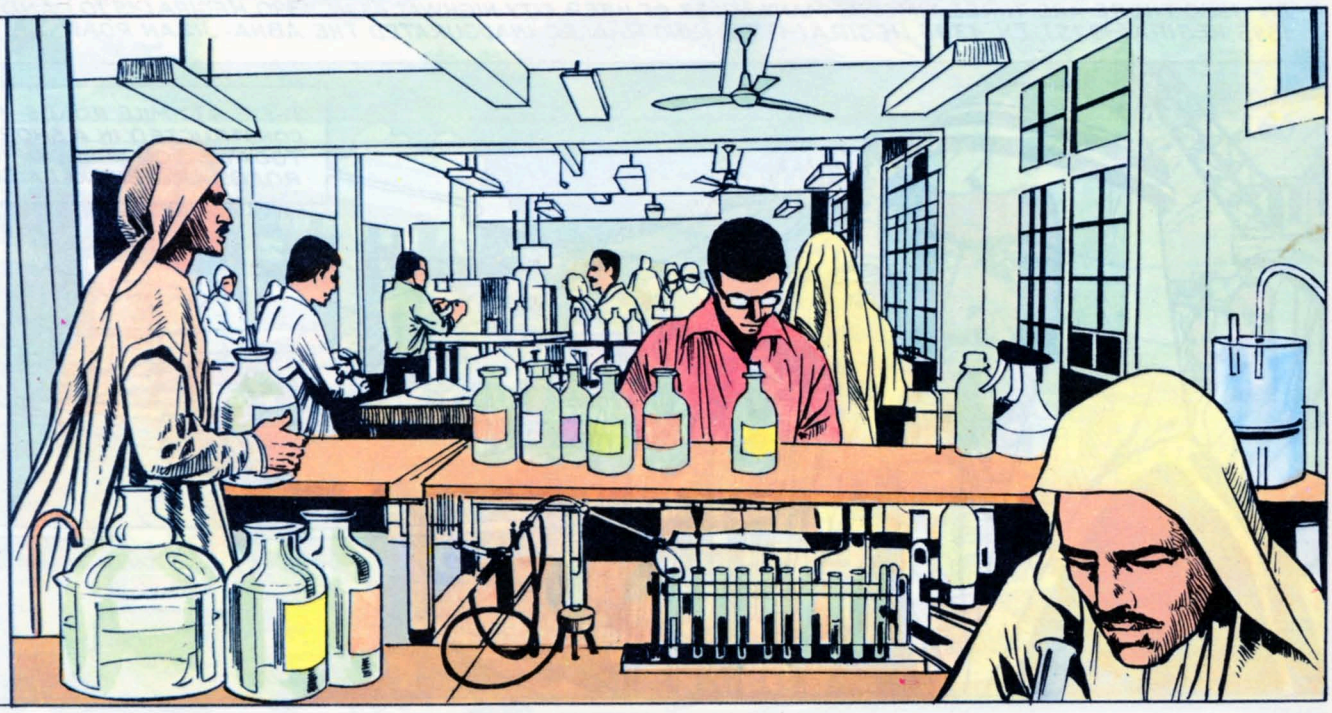
IN FACT, MOST OF THE NEW UNITS FOR SEAWATER DESALINATION HAVE STARTED GENERATION ELECTRICITY TOO.

AMBITIOUS WATER SCHEMES, MODEL FARMS AND HIGH OUTPUT TARGETS: THESE ARE BOOSTING ARABIA'S AGRICULTURE TODAY.



OLD PORTS (LARGE AND SMALL) ARE EXPANDING VERY RAPIDLY. SAUDIA IS ONE OF THE MIDDLE EAST'S BIGGEST AIRLINES.





ON THE EDUCATION FRONT, KING KHALED IS CONTINUING THE WORK OF KING FAISAL. ARABIA WANTS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FROM THE WEST, BUT INTENDS TO AVOID ITS DRAWBACKS.

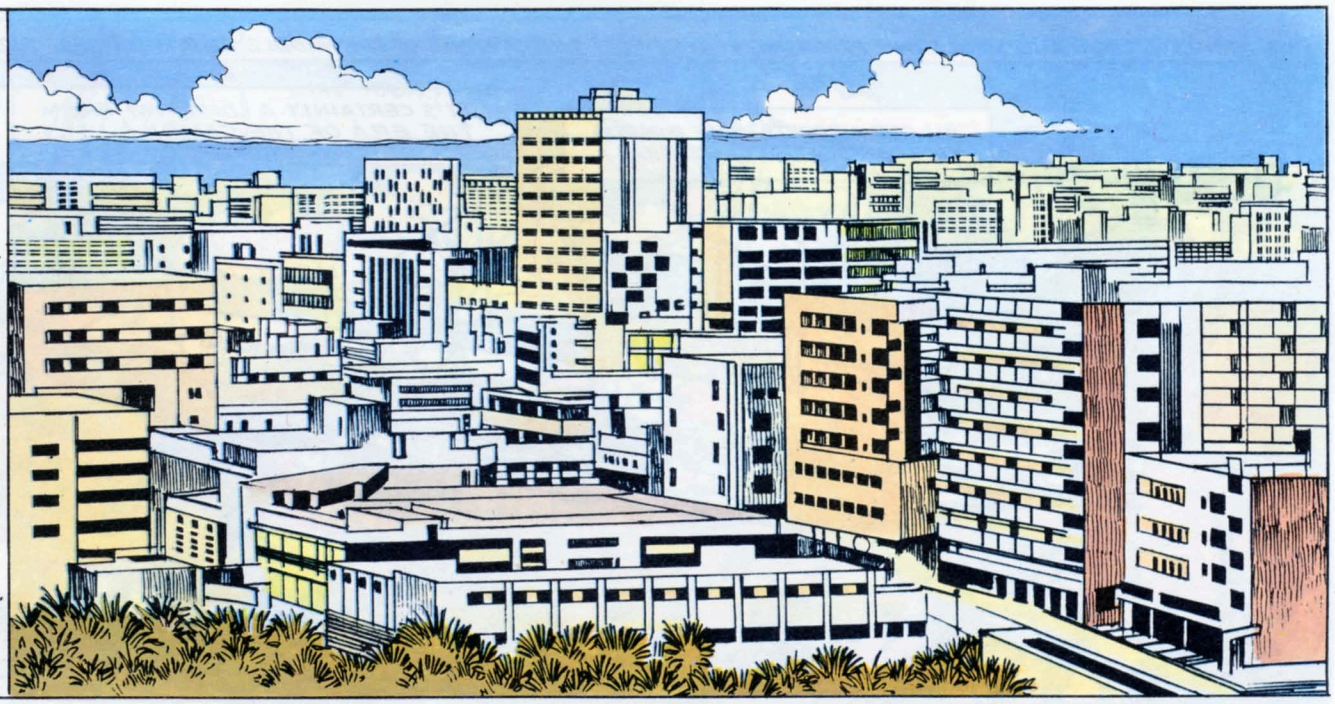
MASSIVE FUNDS ARE ALLOTTED TO TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

A GROWING NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION.

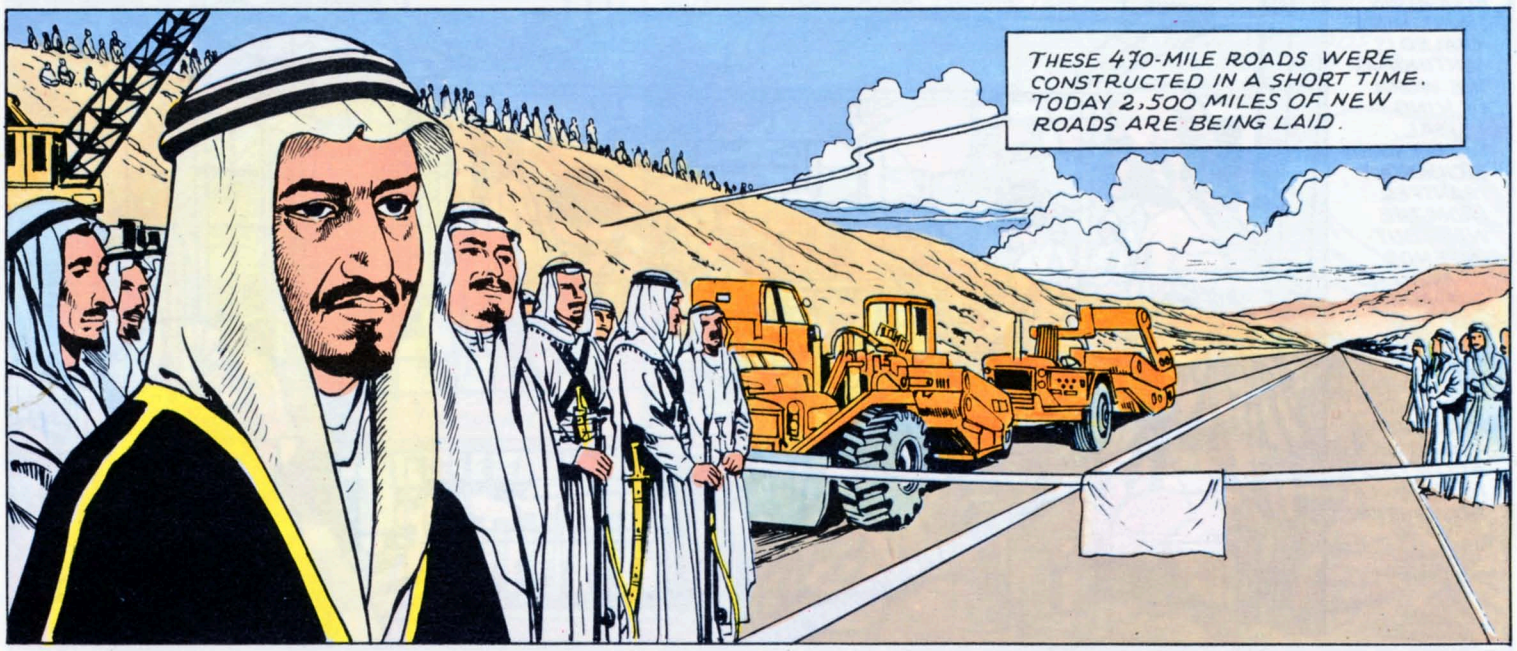
PUBLIC EDUCATION TOOK 20 % OF THE BUDGET IN 1400 (HEGIRA) 1980.

A GLANCE AT THE CITY OF RIYADH PROVES THE DETERMINATION OF THE COUNTRY FOR MODERNISATION.

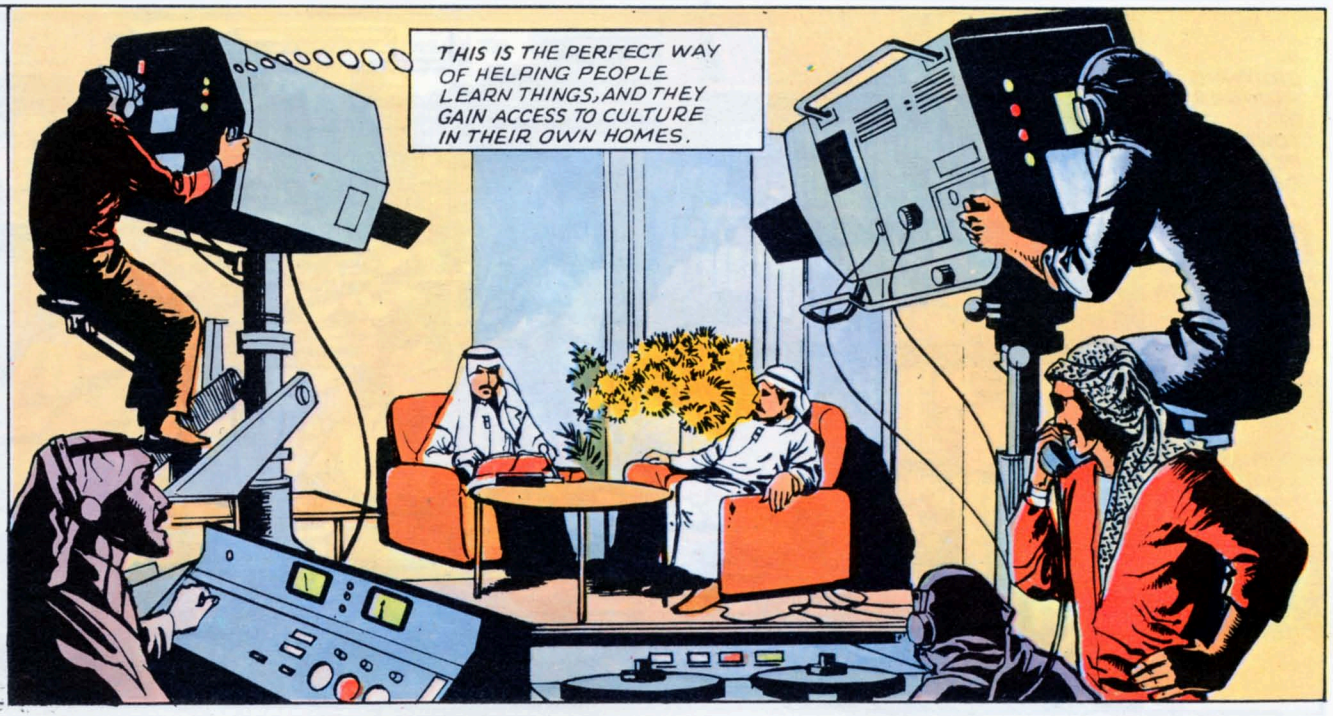
ARABIA IS BUILDING AT A FAST PACE: HOMES, FACTORIES, HOTELS, WHOLE TOWNSHIPS, HARBOURS...

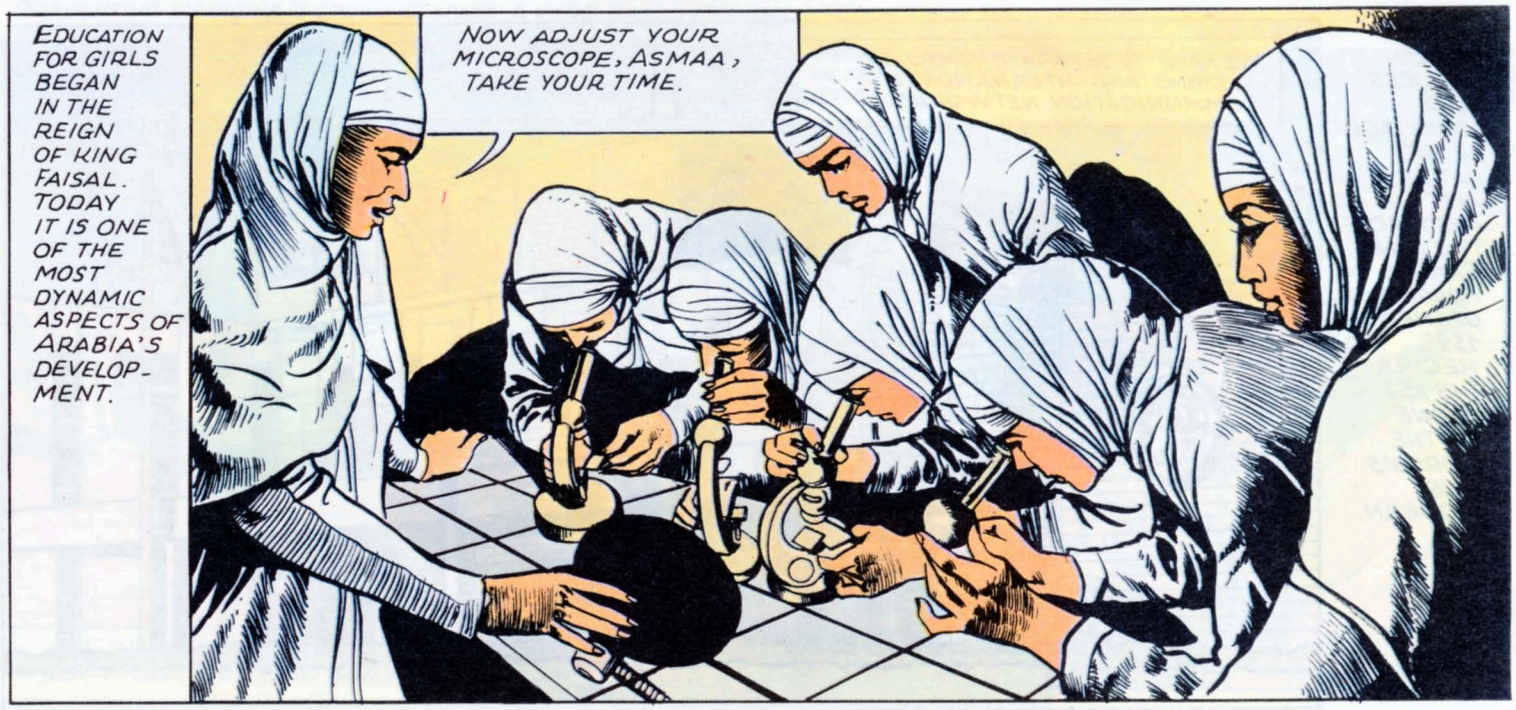


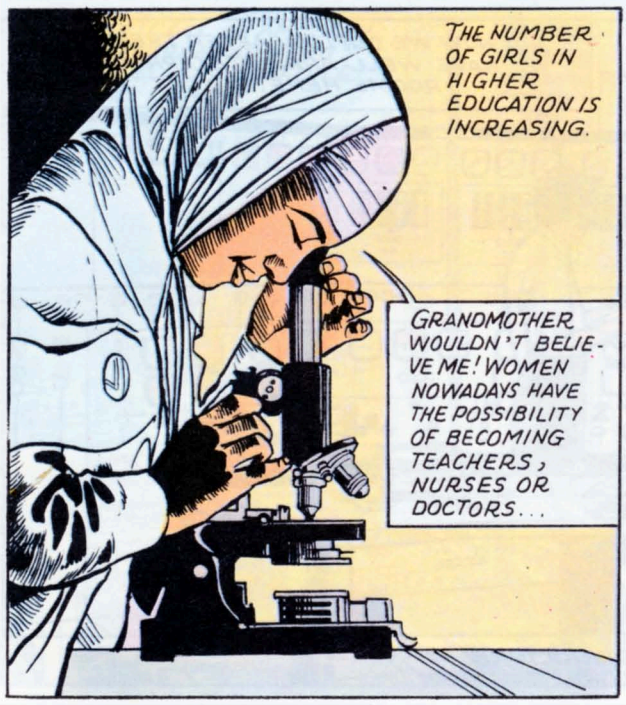
IN 1980 THERE ARE THREE TIMES AS MANY MILES OF INTER-CITY HIGHWAY AS IN 1390 HEGIRA (1970) AND IN 1395 HEGIRA (1975). IN 1396 HEGIRA (1976) KING KHALED INAUGURATED THE ABHA-JIZAN ROAD.

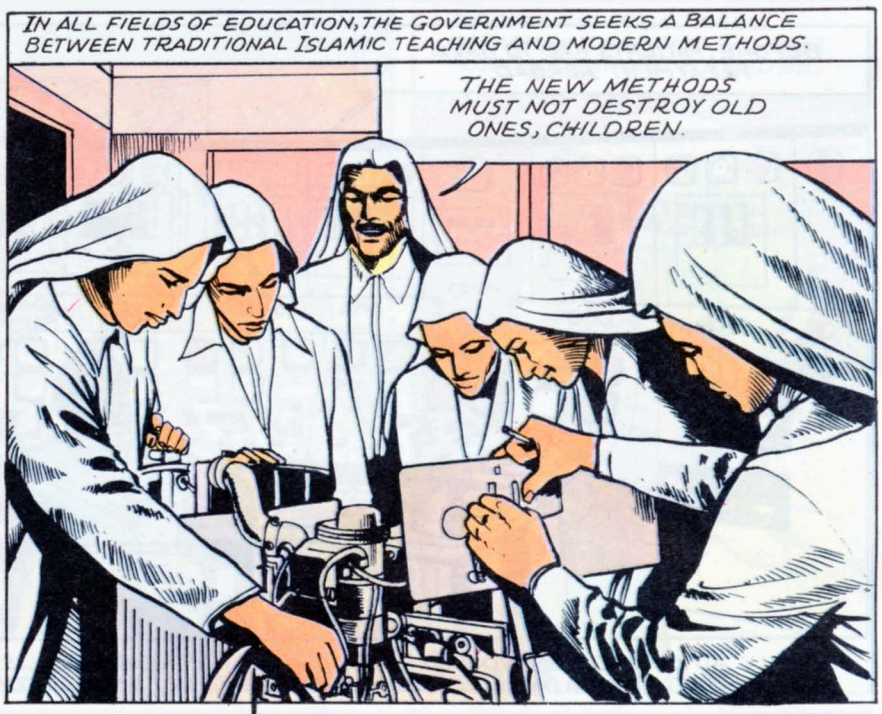


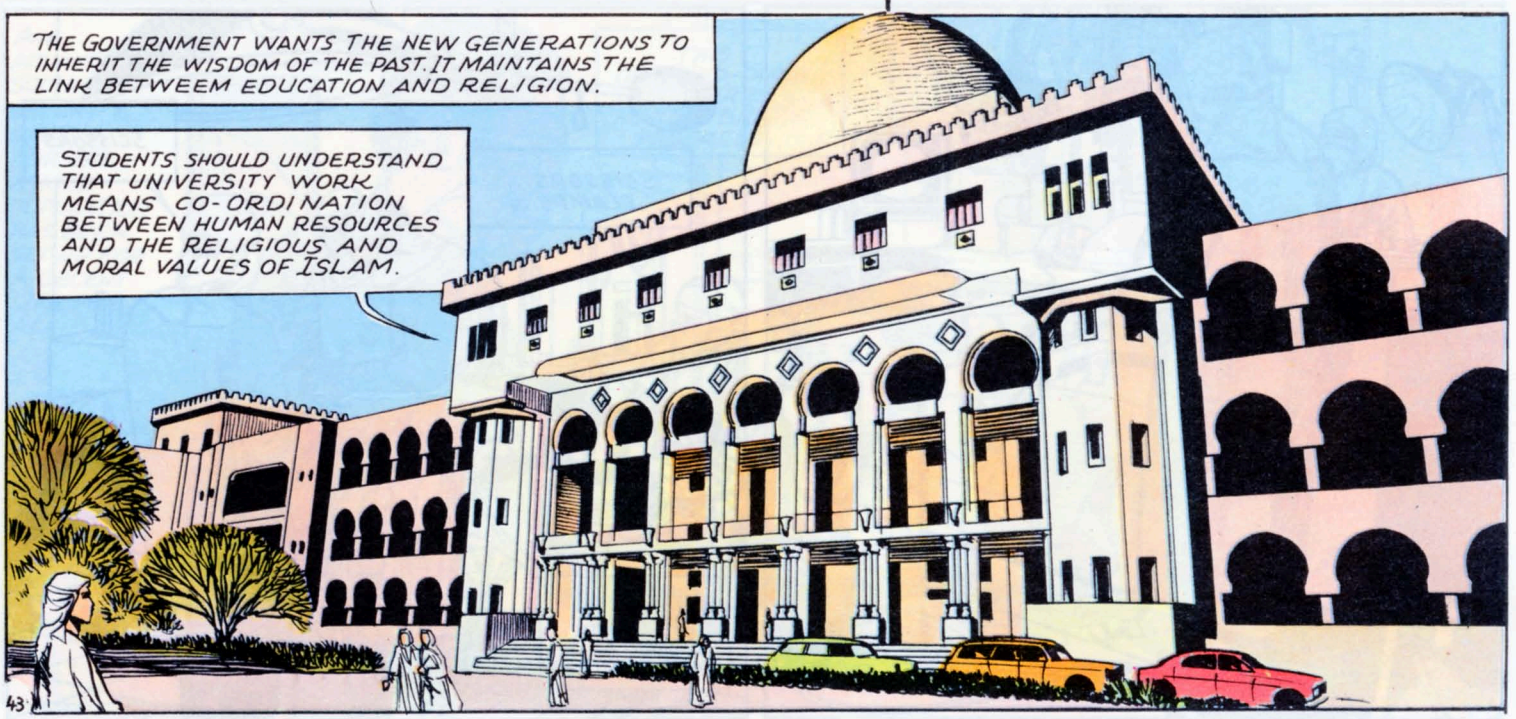
ARABIA IS MOVING AHEAD FAST WITH PHONE AND CABLE LINKS (INCLUDING SPACE SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS), TELEX, TELEVISION AND RADIO.



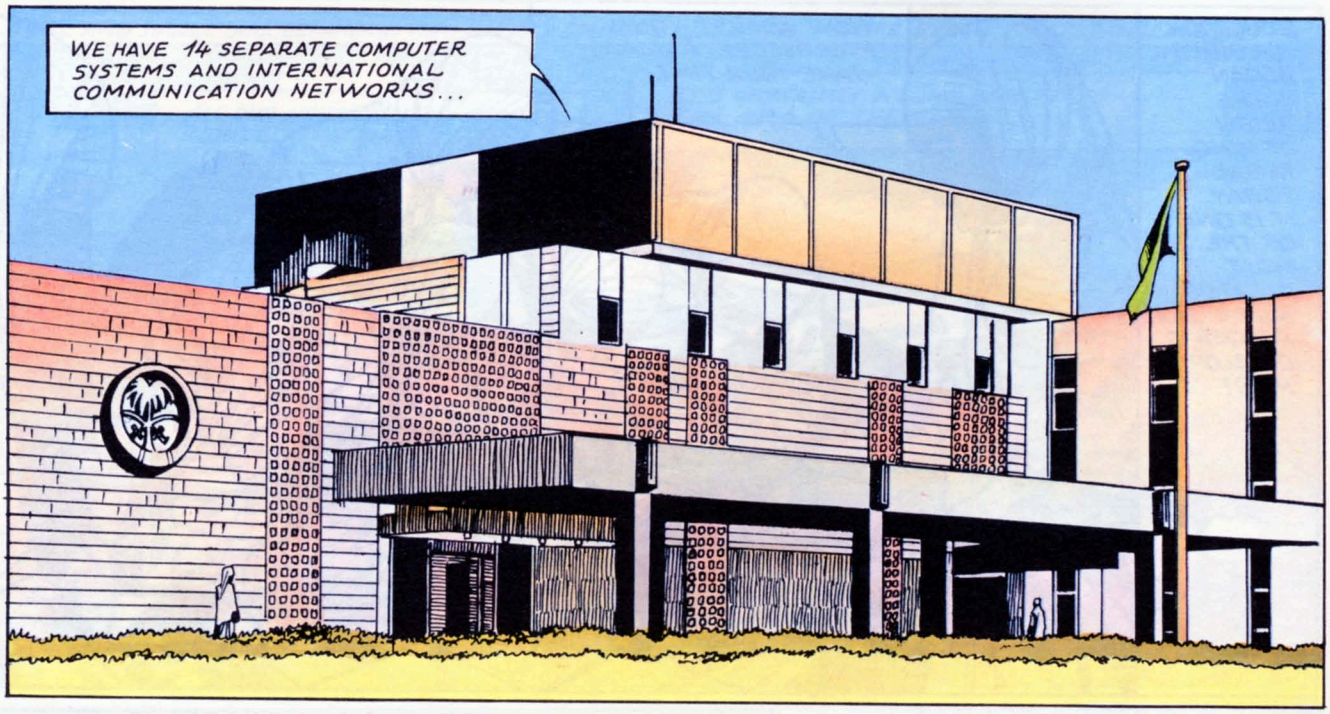

EDUCATION FOR GIRLS BEGAN IN THE REIGN OF KING FAISAL. TODAY IT IS ONE OF THE MOST DYNAMIC ASPECTS OF ARABIA'S DEVELOPMENT.
NOW ADJUST YOUR MICROSCOPE, ASMAA, TAKE YOUR TIME.

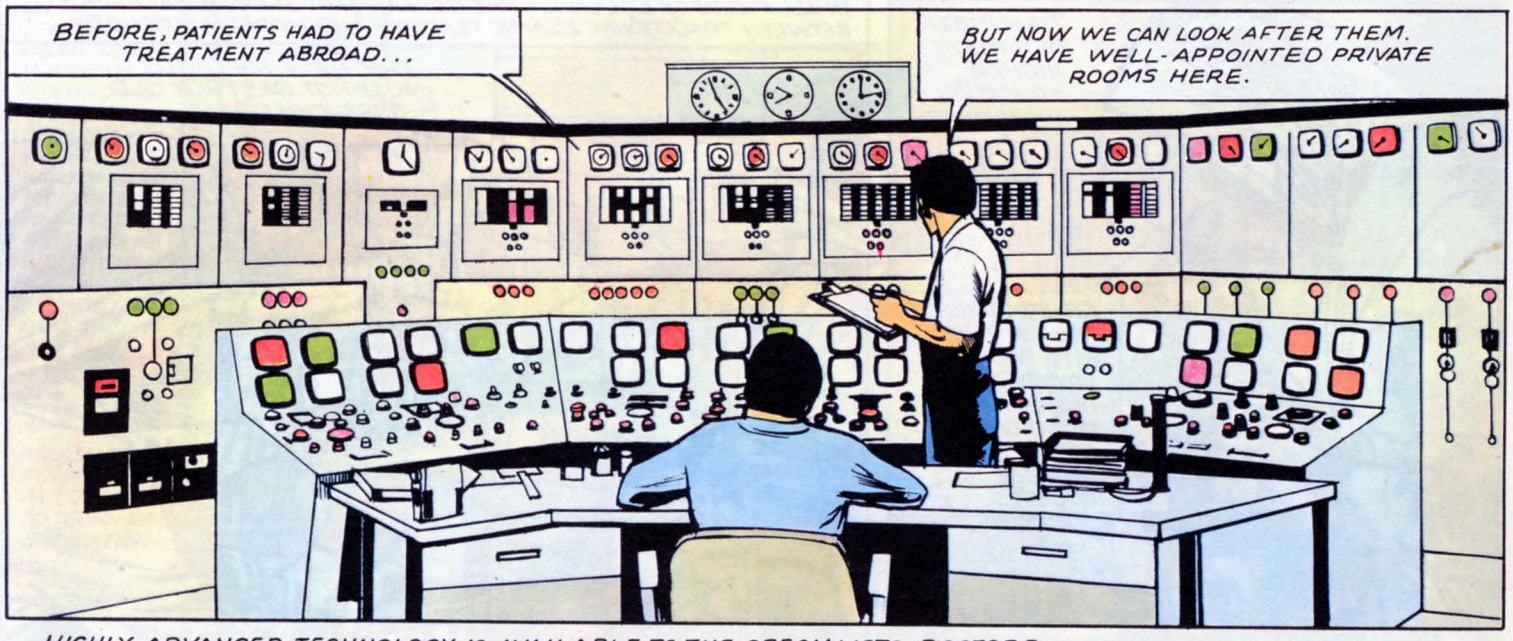

THE NUMBER OF GIRLS IN HIGHER EDUCATION IS INCREASING.
GRANDMOTHER WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME! WOMEN NOWADAYS HAVE THE POSSIBILITY OF BECOMING TEACHERS, NURSES OR DOCTORS...


IN ALL FIELDS OF EDUCATION, THE GOVERNMENT SEEKS A BALANCE BETWEEN TRADITIONAL ISLAMIC TEACHING AND MODERN METHODS.
THE NEW METHODS MUST NOT DESTROY OLD ONES, CHILDREN.

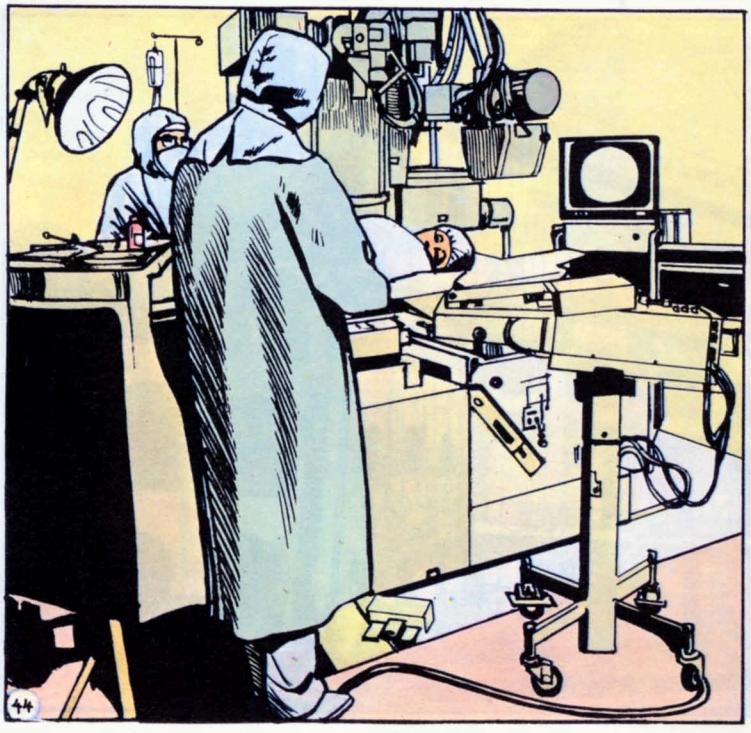

THE GOVERNMENT WANTS THE NEW GENERATIONS TO INHERIT THE WISDOM OF THE PAST. IT MAINTAINS THE LINK BETWEEM EDUCATION AND RELIGION.
STUDENTS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT UNIVERSITY WORK MEANS CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE RELIGIOUS AND MORAL VALUES OF ISLAM.

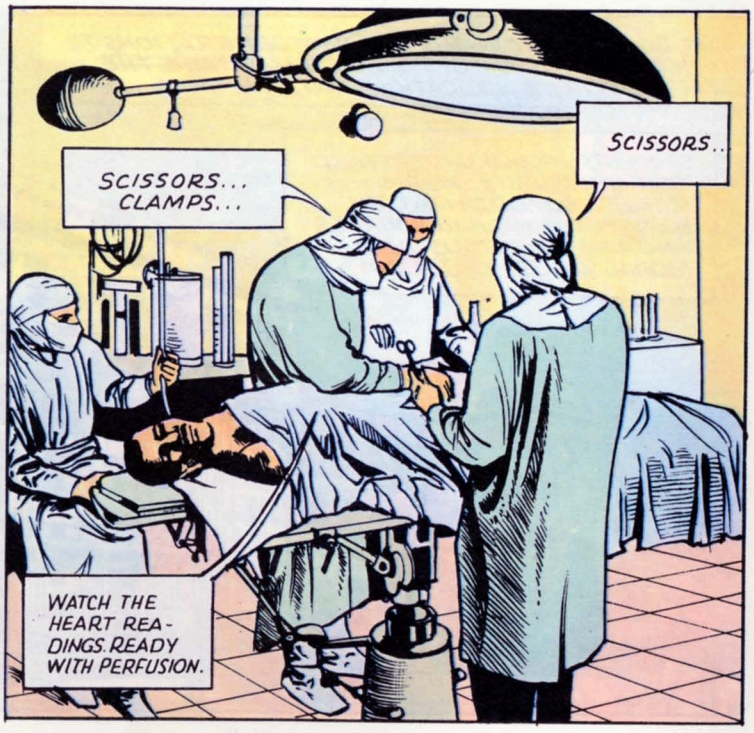
HEALTH SERVICES TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE NATION'S VAST RESOURCES. THE KING FAISAL HOSPITAL, OPENED IN 1395 HEGIRA (1975) IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST MODERN.



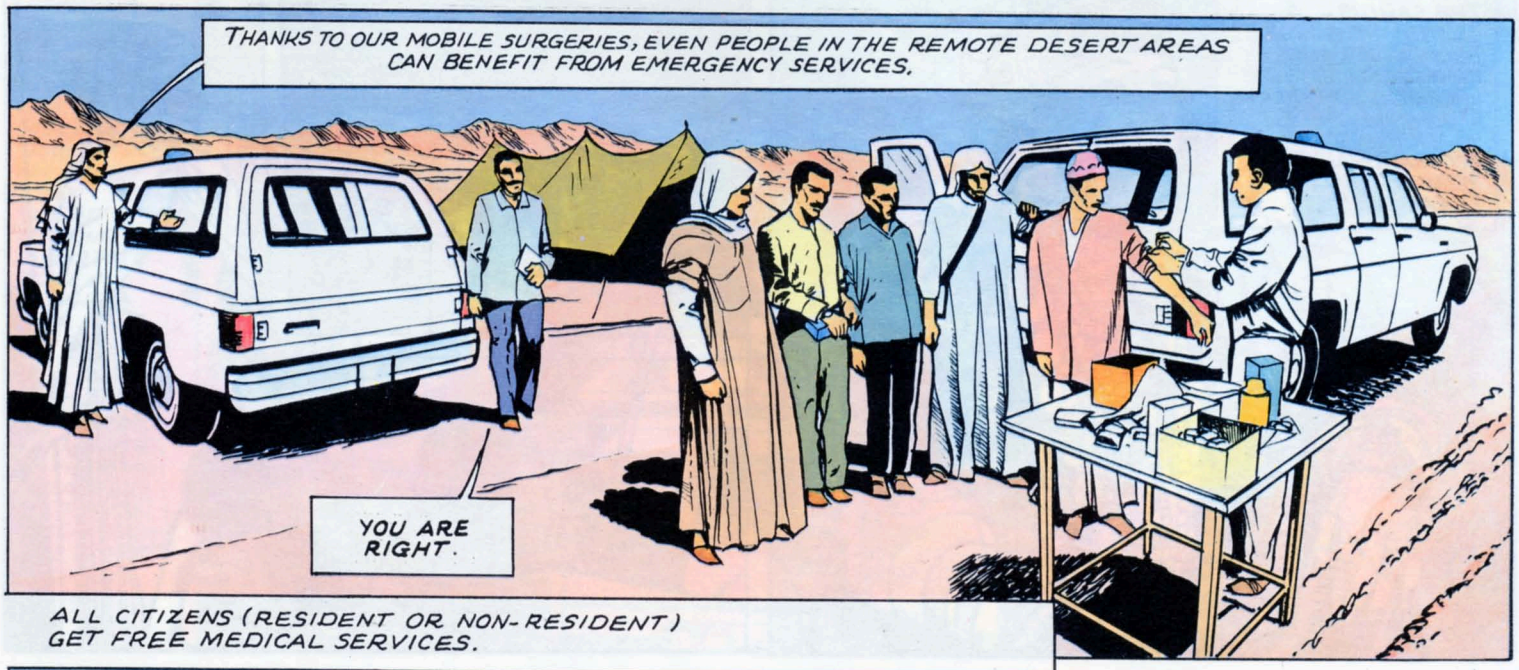


HIGHLY ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IS AVAILABLE TO THE SPECIALISTS, DOCTORS AND NURSES. ARABIA WILL BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN THIS SECTOR...

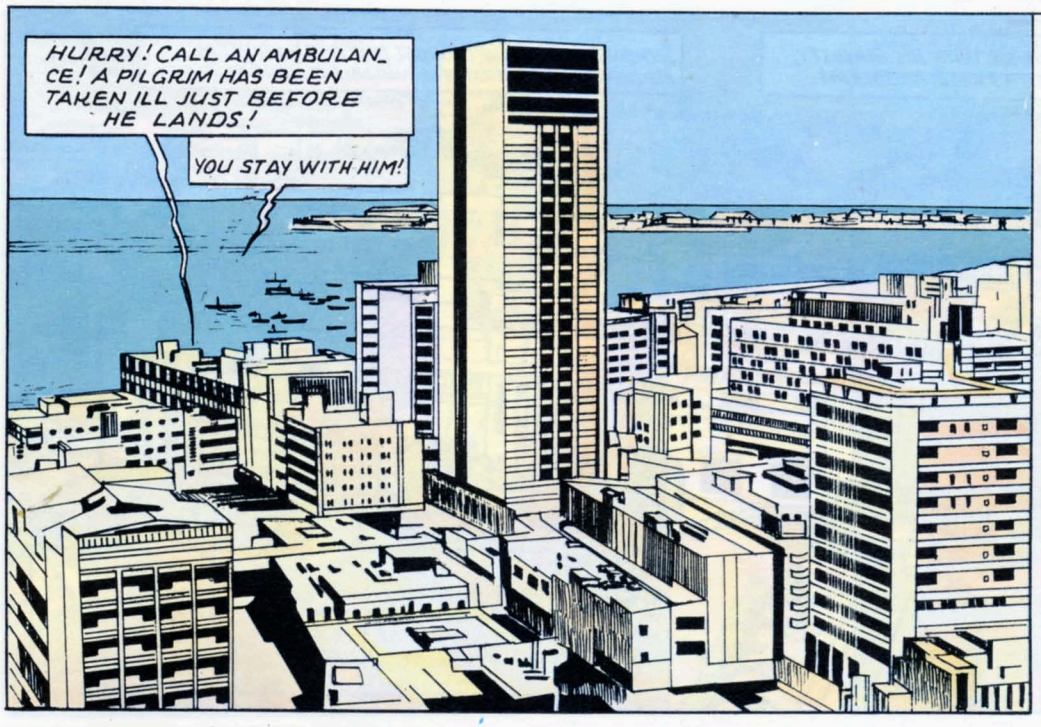


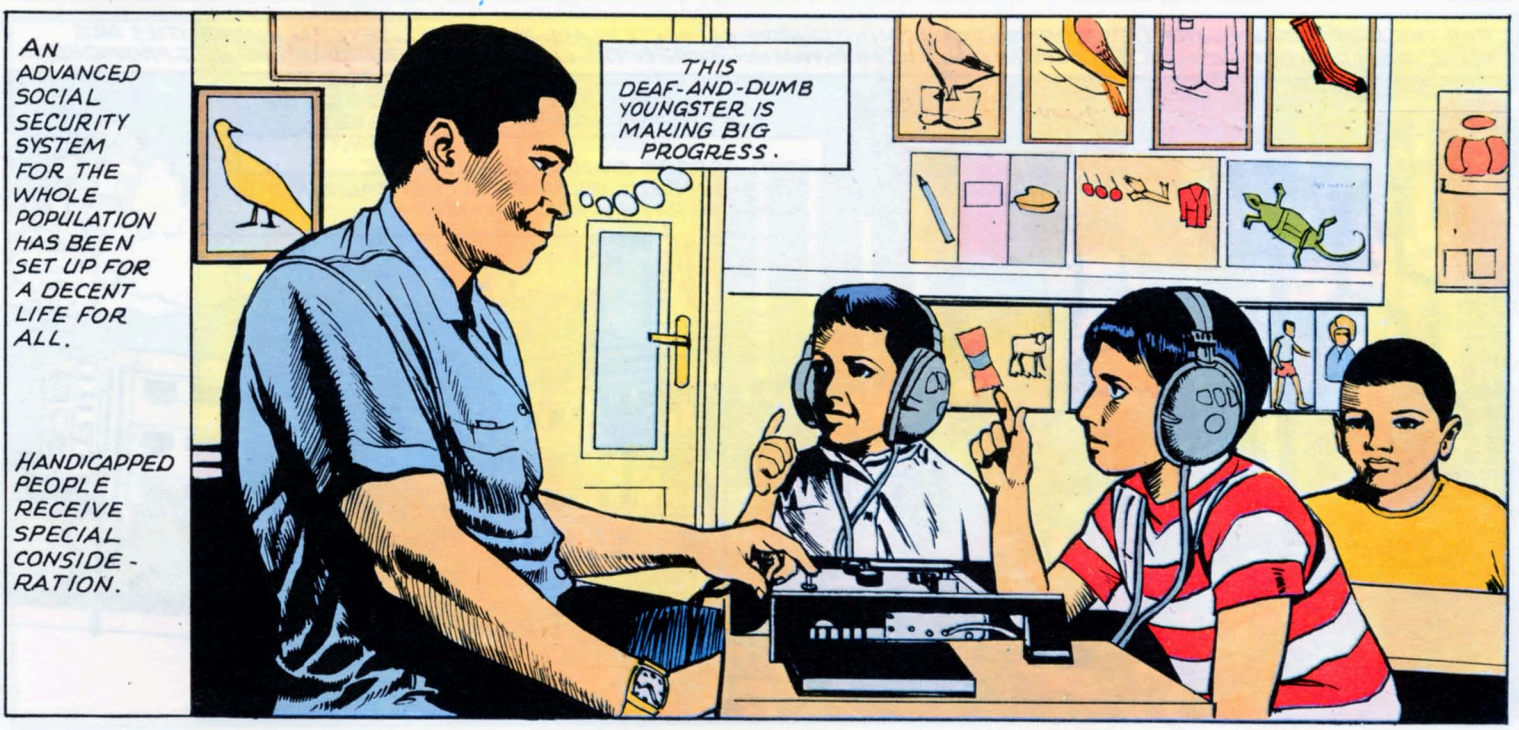


PREVENTIVE MEDICINE IS GROWING APACE. A WIDE-BASED MEDICAL NETWORK HAS BEEN SET UP.

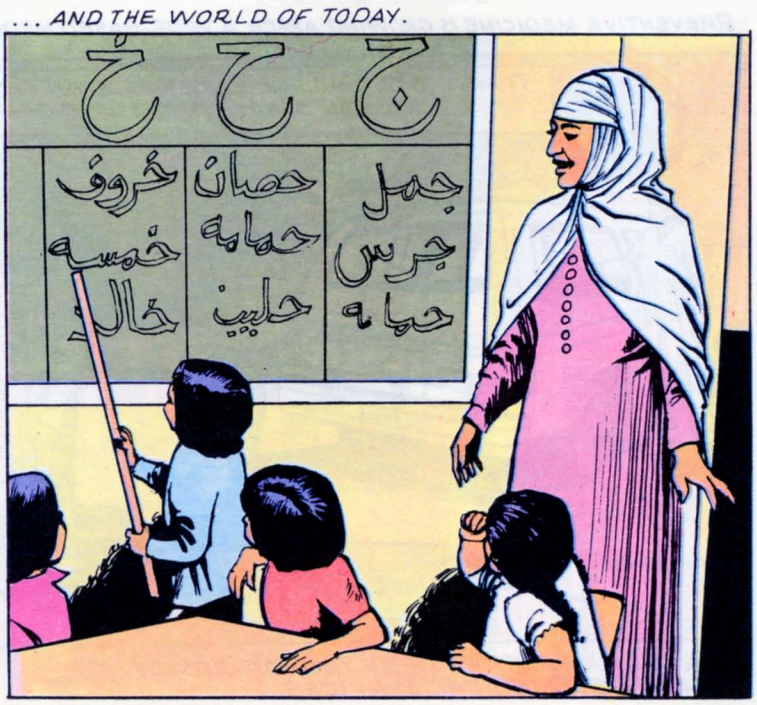


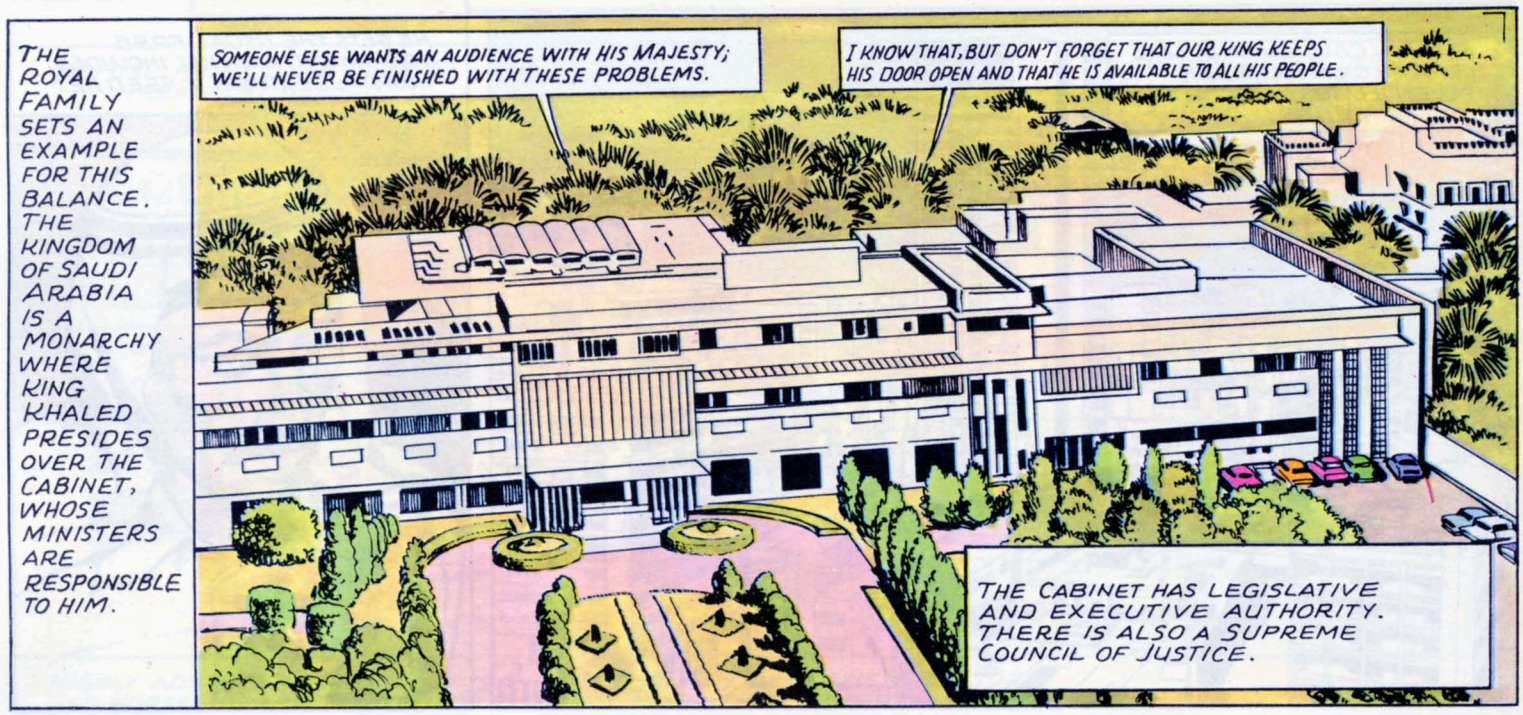
ALL CITIZENS (RESIDENT OR NON-RESIDENT) GET FREE MEDICAL SERVICES.

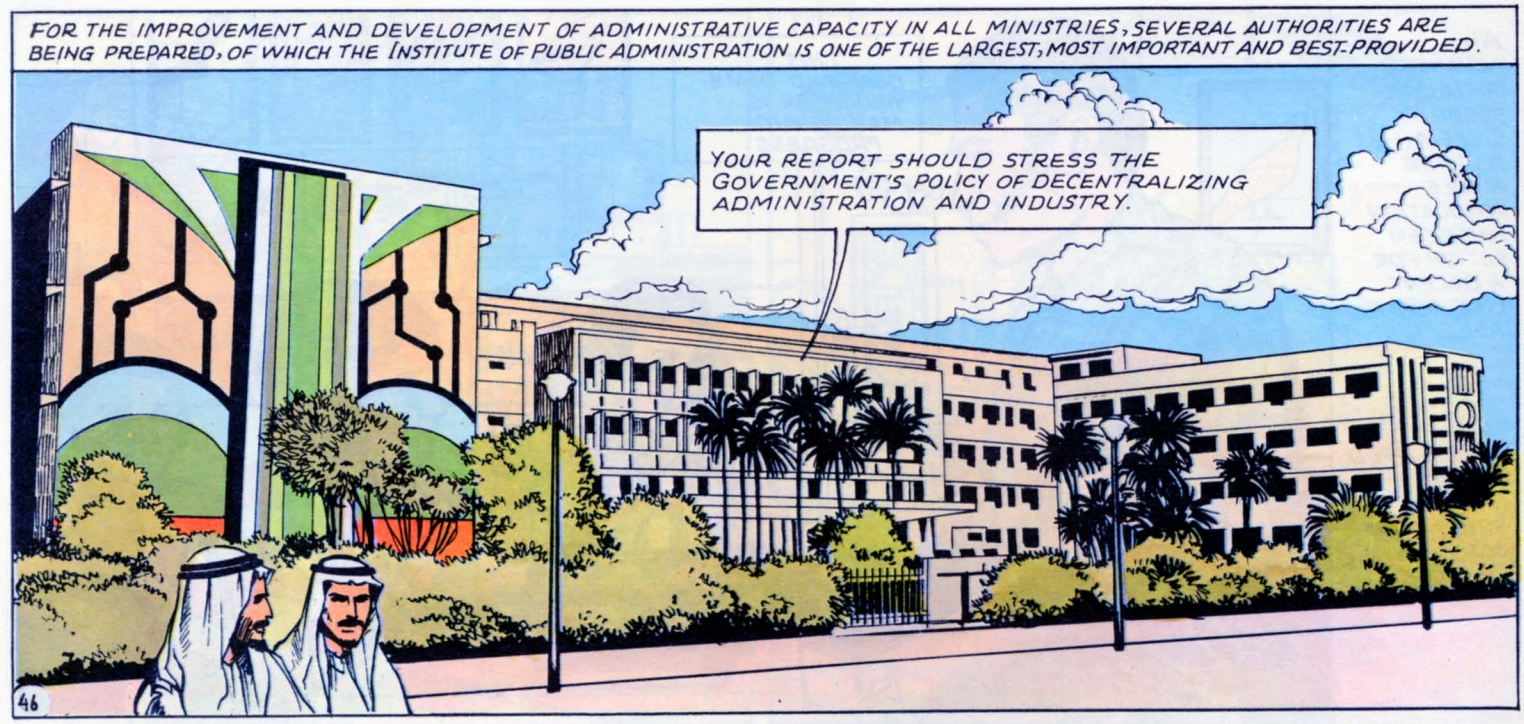




THE SAUDIS, GUARDIANS OF THE HOLY PLACES AND INHERITORS OF THE PROPHET'S BIRTHPLACE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ACHIEVING AN ACCURATE BALANCE BETWEEN TRADITIONAL VALUES...

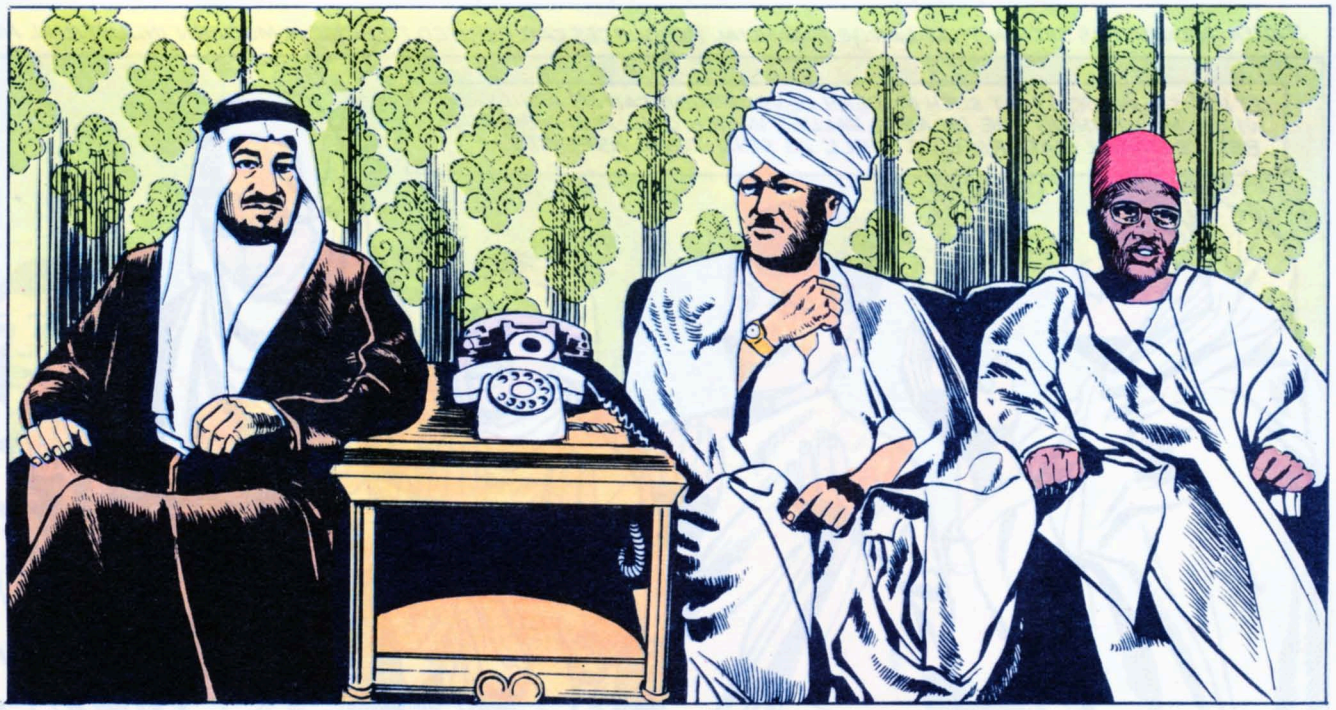

... AND THE WORLD OF TODAY.


THE ROYAL FAMILY SETS AN EXAMPLE FOR THIS BALANCE. THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA IS A MONARCHY WHERE KING KHALED PRESIDES OVER THE CABINET, WHOSE MINISTERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO HIM.
SOMEONE ELSE WANTS AN AUDIENCE WITH HIS MAJESTY; WE'LL NEVER BE FINISHED WITH THESE PROBLEMS.
I KNOW THAT, BUT DON'T FORGET THAT OUR KING KEEPS HIS DOOR OPEN AND THAT HE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL HIS PEOPLE.
THE CABINET HAS LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY. THERE IS ALSO A SUPREME COUNCIL OF JUSTICE.

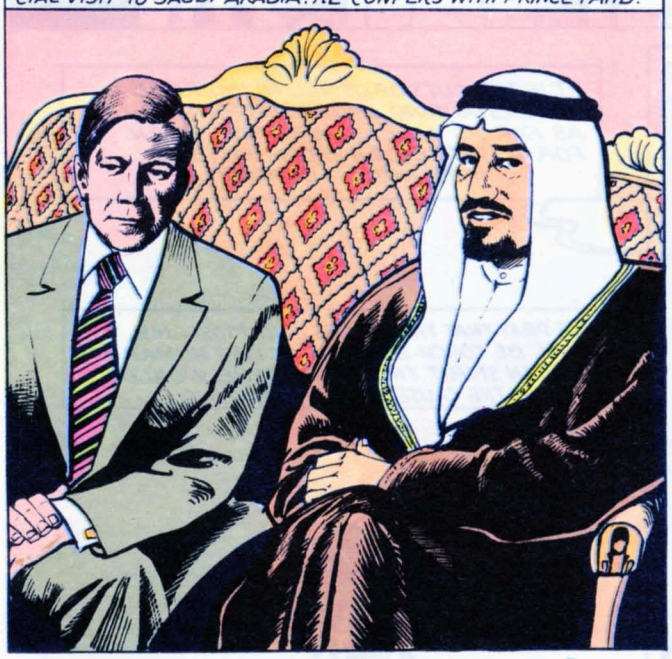

FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY IN ALL MINISTRIES, SEVERAL AUTHORITIES ARE BEING PREPARED, OF WHICH THE INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IS ONE OF THE LARGEST, MOST IMPORTANT AND BEST-PROVIDED.
YOUR REPORT SHOULD STRESS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF DECENTRALIZING ADMINISTRATION AND INDUSTRY.

INTERNATIONNALY, SAUDI ARABIA IS PLAYING AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE. PRINCE FAHD IN 1976 CALLED AN ARAB SUMMIT MEETING TO FURTHER PEACE IN LEBANON.

THE MOSLEM HEADS OF STATE, AND OTHER PROMINENT ISLAMIC DIGNITARIES, WHO ARE ON PILGRIMAGE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OCCASION TO MEET THE KING.

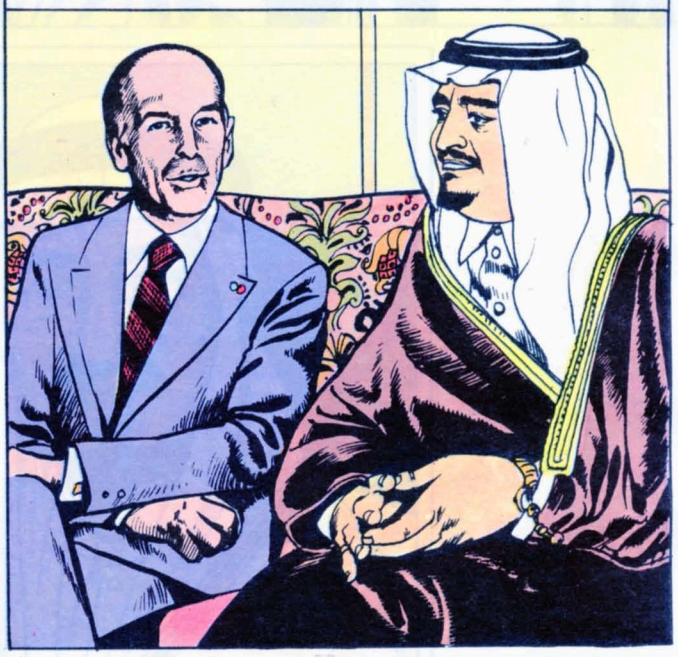


FRENCH PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING PAYS AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA. HE CONFERS WITH PRINCE FAHD.

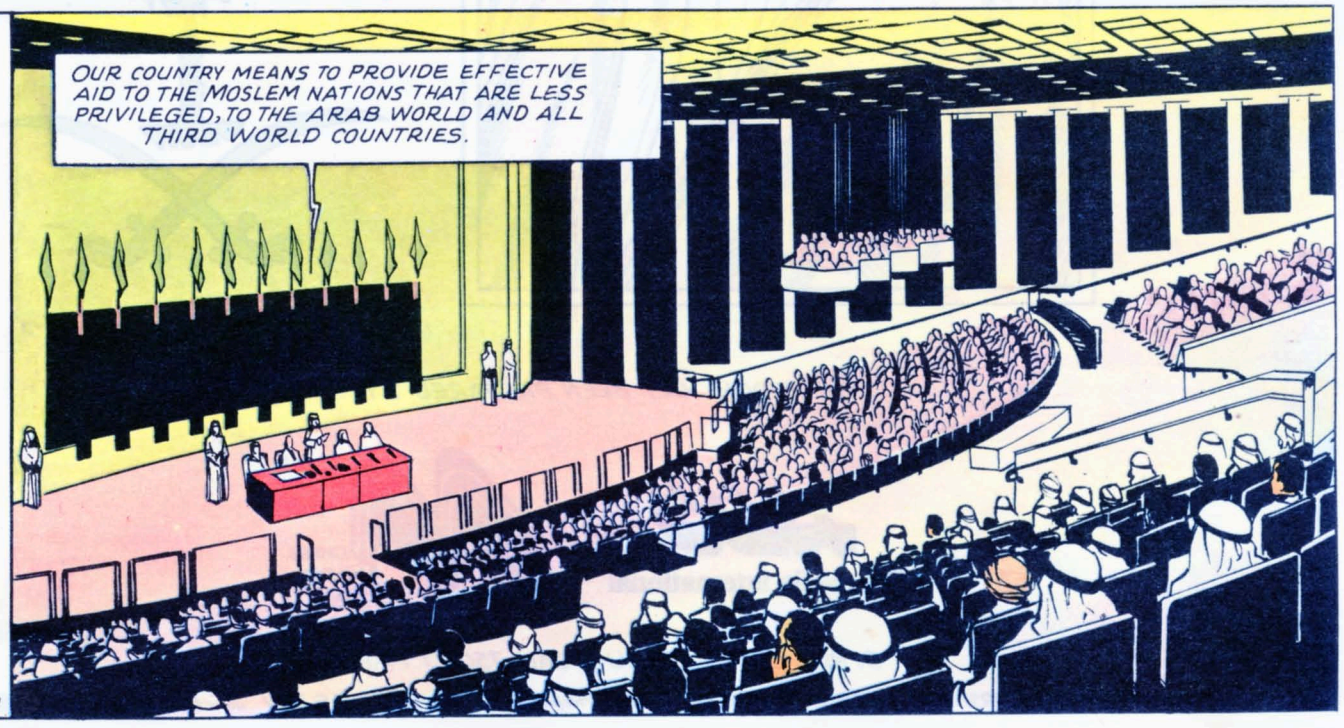


MANY HEADS OF STATE VISIT SAUDI ARABIA. ITS VIEWS ARE INCREASINGLY BASIC TO THE SETTLING OF WORLD PROBLEMS.

KING KHALED VISITS WEST GERMANY IN 1400 HEGIRA (1980).

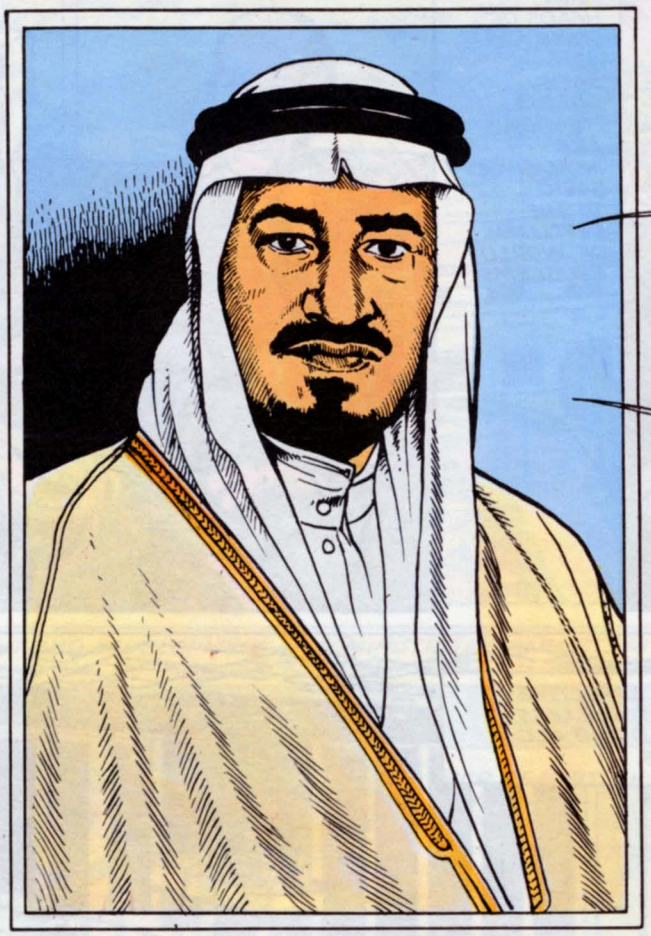


MEANWHILE SAUDI ARABIA IS A "MODERATE" WHEN IT COMES TO OIL PRICE WHILE ACTING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE ARAB WORLD, IT ASSISTS THE THIRD WORLD WITH LOANS AND DONATIONS AS FAR AS IT CAN.



SAUDI ARABIA HAS SHOWN THAT LARGE FINANCIAL RESOURCES CAN BE USED TO BUILD A MODERN INDUSTRIAL NATION.

IT HAS SHOWN, TOO, THAT SUCH MODERN DEVELOPMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED WHILE MAINTAINING THE ISLAMIC VALUES WHICH CALL FOR A BALANCE BETWEEN THE MATERIAL AS WELL AS SPIRITUAL ASPECTS.



IT IS THE DUTY OF US ALL TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING AMONG NATIONS, AS FAR AS WE CAN. WE MUST WORK FOR A BETTER LIFE COMPATIBLE WITH HUMAN DIGNITY.

WE PRAY THAT THE ARABS AND MOSLEMS WILL BE TORCH-BEARERS OF THIS HUMANITARIAN SPIRIT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, IN THE CAUSE OF ALL MANKIND!

THIS BOOK HAS BEEN PREPARED BY

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OUR OWN WORLD AND NATIONS.
AS FAST AS WE CAN, WE MUST WORK
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WE PRAY THAT THE ARABS AND MUSLIMS
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